



# by any other name

the newsletter of the World Federation of Rose Societies' Heritage Rose Group

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Gwen Fagan, photographed Annari van der Merwe



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# A letter from the President

*David Ruston, President*

The 15<sup>th</sup> World Rose Convention was held in Vancouver from June 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, and it was a great success, with just over five hundred delegates, from twenty-one countries. The largest number was from the U.S.A. with one hundred and thirty and Canada with one hundred and twenty-three, Japan with fifty-two, and Australia with twenty-six. The World Rose Show held in the new Vancouver convention and exhibition centre, with its roof covered with lawn, was very well staged with a display of vintage cars with huge arrangements of glasshouse roses, spectacular.

There were excellent entries in the old fashioned rose section of 'one cut' of Gallica, Alba, Damask, Centifolia, Rugosa, Hybrid Musk etc. I liked the section of glass bowls of roses and other flowers, and bowls of roses and herbs. In the flower arrangement section an arrangement in a slipper attracted twenty entries, the winner was a New Zealander, as was the class for a posy using irresistible roses grown in New Zealand. A non-competitive display by local florists using hundreds of glasshouse roses with a backdrop of white tulle was stunning. The roses were all mass grouped for maximum effect with very little foliage showing.

Another highlight was our visit to Butchart Gardens where the delphiniums in the rose garden outshone the roses. After a minimum winter temperature of -18°C, the roses had to be cut back to 12" (30cm). New growth was strong, and it is hard to compete with 6' (2m) delphiniums! The trees in Vancouver were wonderful, both deciduous and evergreen, absolutely huge.

I was interested to find that of the 22 lectures, eleven were on Heritage Roses. They included Claire Laberg, from the Montreal Botanical Garden on species roses; from Canada, Patrick White on the roses bred by Felicatas Svedja on sub-zero and Explorer roses; Steve Jones from U.S.A. on Polyanthas; Eva Kigyossy-Schmidt on roses bred in Hungary by Gergely Mark; Yong-Hong Hu from China on old roses' potential in modern rose breeding in East China; Dr Yuki Mikanagi and Mr Katsuhiko from Japan on the city of Sakura Rose Garden; Peter Boyd from England on Scots Roses (*Rosa spinosissima*); Torben Thim from Denmark on the new two thousand plant Rosarium in Denmark; Helga Brichet from Italy on 'Roses on the move from earliest times to the present day'; and finally, the new President of the WFRS, Sheenagh Harris from South Africa on 'Royal Roses' – roses named after royalty, from Queen Victoria to the present day, and there are one hundred and twenty of them!

At the meeting of the WFRS Heritage Rose Committee I was re-elected as Chairman. The most important news is that after much discussion we have decided that the cut off date for a heritage rose has been changed from 1867 (the year of **La France**) to 1900. It was agreed that a heritage rose, like an antique, should be at least

100 years old. We have decided to hold our heritage rose conferences every three years, which will be the year before the WFRS conferences. The city of Sakura will host our next heritage rose conference in 2011.

The next WFRS conference will be in South Africa in October 2012 – there will be a heritage rose tour to Capetown and the East Coast gardens with Sheenagh Harris as guide.

In 2015 the Conference will be in Lyon, France with an emphasis on the 19<sup>th</sup> century Lyonnaise rose breeders, The Wizards of Lyon. In 2018 the Sangerhausen Region of East Germany has put in a bid, although there could be other contenders. I am happy to say that the WFRS has become very old rose orientated: this means that our two groups can work together amicably.

Finally Changzhuo, a rose-orientated city northwest of Shanghai, is holding a WFRS regional rose convention from 27<sup>th</sup> April to May 5<sup>th</sup> in 2010. This will be very old rose-themed, with lectures by: Maurice Jay from France on new rose progenies between Chinese types and European types in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; also from France, Daniel Boulens will discuss the three great rose gardens at the Parc de la Tete D'Or; from Italy, Helga Brichet will speak on the importance of Chinese bred roses upon the entire world; from Japan, Minoru Ishii will lecture on roses in Fukuyama, this will be followed by Koji Tanaka on the magic of the huge rose garden in Gifu that attracts 40,000 visitors a day in spring and autumn; and finally Naoki Ishikana will deal with the International Fragrant Rose Trials in the Echigo Hillside Park Nagaoka in Niigata Japan. There will also be six speakers from China on a wide array of topics – they wish to use more species in breeding. There will be a choice of two tours following the convention, one to Suzhou and historic Shanghai, and the other to Beijing. Both are of four days in duration. For more details, visit their lovely website at <http://rose.greencz.gov.cn>

There will be more news in future newsletters, which will be published twice a year. We do need input from all countries. News of displays, garden openings, historic collections, lost roses, roses that will stand cold conditions, drought etc, will be of interest to our members.

Finally I must thank Di Durston for typing all my long hand correspondence, and thanks to Fiona our Editor who always issues a very well co-ordinated bulletin, and also thanks to David and Crenagh Elliott our Secretary / Treasury team for keeping all our members informed of our activities.

Happy gardening with roses and other plants to you all.

*David Ruston*

# Minutes of the Heritage Roses Committee Meeting

Vancouver, 23rd June 2009

## THE WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES 15th World Rose Convention Vancouver 2009

### MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE ROSES COMMITTEE MEETING

held at the Westin Bayshore Hotel, Vancouver, Canada, Tuesday 23rd June, 2009 at 1545hrs.

Present: **The Chairman, Mr David Ruston, (Australia)**

**The President Dr Gérald Meylan (Switzerland)**

The Chairman paid tribute to the life of one of the greatest rosarians in the world - Graham Stuart Thomas, and felt it was a fitting tribute and farewell, that the World's Favourite Rose this year was 'Graham Thomas.' A minute's silence was observed in his memory.

**Item 1.** The Chairman welcomed the members and asked for a roll call.

The following delegates were present to represent their National Societies:

Argentina	Mrs Nilda Crivelli
Australia	Mr Kelvin Trimper (Voting) and Mr Ian Spriggs
Austria	Dr Gérald Meylan
Belgium	Mr Frans Thomas
Bermuda	Mrs Marijke Peterich
Canada	Mrs Anne Graber (Voting) and Mr Paul Graber
Chile	Mrs Isa Maria Bozzollo
China	Mr Wang Hui
France	Prof Maurice Jay
Germany	Mr Bernd Weigel (Voting) and Eva Kigyóssy-Schmidt
Great Britain	Mrs Ann Bird (Voting) and Mrs Jill Bennell
Greece	Mrs Helga Brichet
Japan	Dr Ms Yuki Mikinagi (Voting) and Mr Katsuhiko Maebara
Luxembourg	Mrs Hélène Heldenstein
New Zealand	Mr Doug Grant
Pakistan	Dr Mahmooda Hashmi (Voting) and Lt Col S.A. Shakoor
South Africa	Mrs Sheenagh Harris
Spain	Mrs Matilde Ferrer
Switzerland	Mrs Gret Sutter-Suter
Uruguay	Mrs Mercedes Villar
USA	Mrs Jolene Adams (Voting) and Mr Ed Griffith
Observers	Mrs Ethel Freeman, Past President (Canada) Mr Takamasa Tsuge, (Japan) Vice President Far East Mrs Margaret Macgregor (Aust) Vice President Australasia

Mrs Mary Frick (Australia); Mrs Cora Williams (USA); Diantha Rodgers (USA); Prof Akira Ogawa (Japan); David Elliott (Canada); Mrs Crenagh Elliott (Canada); Mr Patrick White (Canada); Mr Steve Jones (USA); Mrs Glynis Hayne (Aust); Mrs Bonita Cattell (Aust)

In attendance: Mr. Malcolm Watson (Aust) - Executive Director.  
Mrs Ruth Watson (Aust) - Secretarial Assistant.

Apologies: Lt Col Ken Grapes, Past President (UK). Mrs Wendy Kroon (South Africa)  
Viru and Girija Viraraghavan (India); Mr Rodaslav Petrovich (Serbia);  
Di Durston (Aust); Pat Toolan (Aust); Fiona Hyland (New Zealand)  
Jill Perry (USA) and Mr Jocelen Janon (New Zealand);  
Mr Peter Boyd (UK); Mrs Gwen Fagan (South Africa);  
Mr Lawrie Newman (Aust)

**Item 2. Confirmation of the Minutes.** Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2006 Osaka Japan had been distributed and were confirmed.

**Item 3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

3.1 Recommendations from the Executive Committee were discussed, and the following Composition and Procedures document was agreed -

#### **STANDING COMMITTEES - HERITAGE ROSES COMMITTEE**

a. **Composition**

- (1) The President ) Ex Officio
- (2) The Hon. Treasurer )
- (3) One delegate from each Member Country.  
In attendance: The Executive Director

b. **Quorum.**

A majority of Members, provided that this does not fall below 12 Members.

c. **Duties.**

To consider and recommend to Council -

- (1) To establish international recognition of dates whereby roses may be classified as 'old garden' and 'heritage' roses.
- (2) To help and assist in the identification of old roses with the correct names wherever they are planted throughout the world.
- (3) To encourage
  - 1. Heritage Rose Societies to join the WFRS as Associate Members.
  - 2. National Heritage Societies to affiliate with National Rose Groups;
  - 3. Associate Members and Breeders' Club Members to join their National Heritage Groups.
- (4) To liaise with all Heritage Roses Groups and encourage participation in Heritage Rose Conventions.
- (5) Heritage Rose Conventions will be held every three years in the year preceding the World Rose Convention.

(6) To provide news of its activities for publication in World Rose News and the WFRS website.

It was agreed that the registration fee for all future WFRS International Heritage Rose Conferences post 2012, would be the fee that is levied on all Regional Conventions – which is currently 10 pounds sterling per registrant.

3.2 Defining Date for Heritage Roses

After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the defining date for Heritage Roses would be 1900.

The delegates from the USA were not in favour of the change, and requested their opposition to the alteration be recorded.

3.3 The 12<sup>th</sup> International Heritage Rose Conference scheduled for Madeira in May 2009 had been cancelled due to personal commitments of the organiser Mr Miguel Albuquerque.

3.4 Responding to a request that there be only one world conference that addressed both modern and heritage rose interests, The Chairman advised that they had been unsuccessful in obtaining a host society to organise a conference in-conjunction with Vancouver, and also in South Africa in 2012.

**Item 4. Chairman's Report**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Old Rose Lovers all.

The last three years since the WFRS Convention in Osaka have been a most rewarding time for our newly fledged WFRS Rose Committee. Many thanks to the following people on the Executive Committee, Di Durston from Western Australia for typing all my reports and letters, to Fiona Hyland from New Zealand our Editor, for getting the Bulletins together so well, to N.Z. Heritage Roses President, Jocelyn Janon for his superb photographs and for joint Secretary/Treasurer Crenagh and David Elliott from Vancouver Island for all their work especially compiling news to all our Committee Members, I could not have managed without you all.

In 2007 Prof. François Joyaux almost single handed organised the fantastic 11<sup>th</sup> Heritage Rose Conference in Chaalis in France. You will have all heard about this in our first Bulletin in March 2008 in Fiona's article.

At our inaugural conference in Osaka I asked for input into our Bulletins. I received great support from N.Z, South Africa, Japan, India, Australia, USA, Bermuda, Chile, United Kingdom, Italy, France and Madeira, but nothing much from most other member countries. This was very disappointing.

During the last 3 years a number of significant new collections have been planted. The Chambersville Tea Rose Garden, the brain child of Claude and Pamela Graves in Richardson, Texas, where bushes are planted 20 feet apart to show their true potential and maintained by volunteers or should I use the American term, docents. Thanks to Indian Stalwarts Viru and Girija Viraraghavan, an area of old roses and their history have

been added to the rose garden at Ootacamund (Ooty for short) a hill town in Southern India.

In 2008 WFRS President, Dr Gérald Meylan opened The Tea Rose China and Noisette Collection at Ruston Roses at Renmark, South Australia. This also contains 800, 50 year bushes of Hybrid Teas and Floribundas bred between 1867 – 1960, many of which are in danger of becoming extinct. They are our heritage roses of the future. Also in late 2008 the Australian Bi-ennial Heritage Roses Conference was held south of Melbourne and run by the Melbourne and Mornington groups in a most fitting old late Victorian mansion turned into a convention centre overlooking Pt. Phillip Bay. It was a great success with an attendance of 250.

An exciting project for South Africa is at Bedford, a rosy town inland from Pt. Elizabeth, in the grounds of the old Anglican Church, where all the historic old roses described in Gwen Fagan's classic work "Roses at the Cape of Good Hope" will be planted.

I must thank Mr. Takamasa Tsuge from Japan for his work visiting China where there is now a Chinese Rose Society who have joined the WFRS. Members are here today, and we welcome them with joy. Roses from China brought continuity of flower into our modern roses. A Regional Conference is planned from April/May 2010, in Changzhou, a town south of Shanghai, famous for its roses.

There have been several books published lately. "Tea Roses – Roses for Warm Climates" written by six dedicated and most knowledgeable women from Western Australia has received rave reports and will be our tea rose bible. It has received a WFRS Literary Award, as has Dr. Mahmooda Hashmi's book on the "Wild Roses of Pakistan". Dr Mahmooda is present here today. She is a former President of the Pakistan Rose Society.

The Charleston Horticultural Society has printed a splendid history of the noisette roses that had their origin in that beautiful, unspoilt old city. Authors are all world authorities on this important class of roses for warm climates.

In our last Bulletin in March 2009, I conducted a plebiscite on the world's favourite tea roses with replies from 86 members from again the warmer areas of the world. Winner was Monsieur Tillier aka Archduke Joseph with 196 points, followed by Comtesse de Labarthe, alias Duchess de Brabant with 168, and Lady Hillingdon, the choice of Helga Brichet, Odile Masquellier, the Viraraghavans, Jill Perry and me with 153 points. It is her ladyship's 100th birthday in 2010, and we plan a great party at Renmark in her honour. She is to be planted at the base of the bronze sculpture as her colour and bronze foliage is perfect for the situation.

We plan to have 2 Bulletins a year for the next 3 years and need input from ALL our Committee especially articles on once blooming old roses that thrive in cold climates.

I am determined to have more communication between lovers of roses both old and new. Trips to Tasmania in 2007 for 94 people, Dunedin and Christchurch NZ in 2008, and a repeat to Tasmania in 2009 has helped to do this. We always find gardens with old

roses mixed with bulbs, perennials, trees, shrubs – these are the most beautiful, providing interest all the year.

Finally thank you Vancouver friends for a memorable Convention. I will remember the glorious gardens, the fantastic display of oldies at the rose show, the vases of old roses with bits and pieces beautifully blended. The icing on the cake, the trip to the incomparable Butchart Gardens yesterday. The standards of crimson Chevy Chase were a knockout as were the delphiniums or should I say Delphinia?

I am sure our WFRS Heritage Roses World Group will have a very rosy future.

Thank you all from the bottom of a very rose orientated heart.

**Item 5.      Heritage Rose Convention, Sakura 2011**

The Convention will be held from the 28<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011 in Sakura Japan. The Chairman thanked the delegation for their excellent presentation to the Convention Committee. Dr Ms Yuki Mikinagi outlined the preliminary programme Prof Akira Ogawa reported that the Japan Rose Society now supported this activity, and the Conference would be under the auspices of the World Federation.

**Item 6.      Chairman for 2009 – 2012**

The President, Dr Meylan thanked our President Emeritus Mr Ruston, for the work he has undertaken with such passion to formalise this Committee to enable lovers of Heritage Roses to work within the World Federation structure. These comments were supported by the delegates with acclamation.

Mr David Ruston was appointed Chairman by the Executive Committee for the next 3 years.

The Chairman thanked registrants for their attendance and contribution and closed the meeting.

[wfrs/vancouver2009/heritage roses committee meeting minutes.com](http://wfrs/vancouver2009/heritage roses committee meeting minutes.com)

# A rosarium for Serbia

by Radoslav Petrovic, Serbia

There is no serious tradition in Serbia where roses are concerned: everything dates for the most part to the 1950s. At that time, realizing that roses could be a lucrative business, some people decided to grow varieties that were then commercially popular. Naturally, Hybrid Teas were most sought after, so they were represented in great numbers in the nurseries established during the period. The situation remained unchanged until today. I, however, have been trying for a long time to acquaint others with the glorious beauty and graciousness of old garden roses. And I am happy to say that as time goes by, more and more people visit my garden and sincerely admire my roses.

My garden is located 23 kilometres from Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, in a small town called Vrčin, at the foot of Mt. Avala. Surrounded by beautiful landscape with many forests and fields, the area practically begged for a vast rose garden. My collection of 1,200 varieties of mostly old garden roses covers a very limited space. This means that most varieties are represented by a single plant. The space is small, but the love invested is immeasurable. And the collection is growing: a 2-acre piece of land nearby will be able to hold additional old rose varieties in the future.

It all started in 1994 when I moved from the city of Belgrade to try to realize my dream. I finally had a chance to live surrounded by nature, breathe clean air, and have vast spaces around me. My love for roses dates as far back as I can remember, but my discovery of old garden roses was something entirely new and overwhelming. Little by little, they kept arriving in my garden. First came **Louise Odier**, unbelievably rich in blooms and in our climate, extremely vigorous. She was followed by **Ferdinand Pichard**, **Camaieux**, **Baron Girod de L'Ain**, **Climbing Souvenir de la Malmaison**, and **Bourbon Queen**. In the beginning I used to find roses with many petals much more interesting than others, until **Single Cherry** swept me off my feet with her magical presence, color, and fragrance. In my opinion, the bloom form is the most important aspect of the rose, then comes fragrance, and finally, color. Of course, the form of the bush is equally significant.

My quest for roses did not go smoothly. Bringing rare and valuable plants into the country was always (and still is) hard work. Bureaucracy never stops to take a breath, so every time a rose was to enter Serbia, I encountered numerous problems. Most often, the customs employees expressed lack of understanding: "Why do you need these roses?" or "You are planning to sell them!"

This, of course, was not true. From the very beginning, my intent was to simply enjoy the endless beauty of the plants. Each time I would lay my eyes on a variety I did not know, my excitement would rise. "Oh, God," I would think, "You must have had such fun making this

one. You created something so thoroughly refined and exceptional in every aspect, and then you wove in the threads of fragrances so beautiful that they linger in the air, enchanting anyone lucky enough to be near." Border inspectors, stern and serious, would shatter my daydreaming: "You will introduce diseases from all over the world into the country, you'll infect our entire local plant life!"

This battle continues. The law says one thing, then another; sometimes the authorities fail to read the paragraphs all the way through and my parcels end up "returned to sender" and I feel like Sisyphus, always on the brink of obtaining something new when things fall through at the last moment and I have to start over.

At one point I realized that I should start selling roses. The money I made would enable me to keep collecting new varieties, while at the same time I could show others what made me so happy about the roses. I try to explain the superior beauty of an old rose, even though her bloom period is short compared to that of a Hybrid Tea. Fragrance is another issue. People must understand that if their roses have no fragrance, they are robbed of many beautiful moments.

I often wonder, "Do people realize what jewels I am bringing to them?" Our time on this planet is short, but the majestic rose will remain much, much longer. In one hundred or two hundred years, someone else will be enjoying nature's never-ending play and blooms that make us sigh, drunk with their fragrance. If old garden roses survived this long, for what must be just a fraction of eternity, I am certain that they will go on forever.

When I return to my imaginative world, the eternal dilemmas come back to haunt me: where to create a rosarium, and when to stop? As with so many complex ideas, this one too requires serious funds. Should I build it on 2 or 5 hectares of land, or maybe even more? How big should the collection be? And is there ever going to be an end? I always seem to be finding interesting plants.



Wherever I go, I observe roses and ask myself if very old varieties can be found here in Serbia, how old might they be? One day, something caught my attention. In an old part of Belgrade, I saw a plant that reminded me of a Gallica rose. I asked the old lady who lived in the building if she knew the name of the rose. She replied that she did not, but remembered that the rose had been there since she was a little girl, at least sixty years ago. Naturally, I took cuttings and propagated the rose immediately. I now have three, named "**Old Fair**," in my garden.

Rare roses always display a special delicacy. I fail to find enjoyment in the purchase of newer varieties, current hit roses, roses of the year, and the like. It is too easy: you can buy them in any nursery and have as many as you wish. There is no better feeling than to discover a rose that is almost extinct, knowing that *you* are the person who will do everything possible to keep it from disappearing from the face of the Earth. On the contrary, you are trying to multiply it and spread it around so that others may enjoy its charms.

Many old roses disappeared during the last one hundred years, some due to human negligence, some because of climate changes. Serbia's climate is very unusual. Even though summers can be extremely hot and winters unexpectedly cold, the fact remains that roses seem to withstand these perils with commendable success. Having observed them in different parts of the country, I have concluded that they are usually quite strong and healthy.

I kept all this in mind when I decided one day to create a rosarium in Serbia, a place where the roses of yesteryear could intermingle with the roses of today, where times past are remembered and older values are never to be forgotten. When I finally fully realize my dream, planet Earth shall have another beautiful spot where everyone will be able to find their proper place. People shall walk in the company of roses, and roses, like a true family, will live in harmony together.

Radoslav Petrović is the owner of *Petrović Roses*, the only nursery in Serbia and Montenegro that grows and sells rare old roses. Next year his nursery will offer 7,000 bare-root and about 4,000 own-root roses to customers in Canada, Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium, and other countries. Born on November 2, 1960 in Belgrade, Serbia, Radoslav has always loved roses but has devoted his life to them since the age of 34. Photographing roses and creating new moments in his garden are two of his passions. The progressive and melodic rock of his youth as well as classical music are also an integral part of his life. Radoslav is married and has two daughters, and is hoping to create a beautiful new rose one day.

For more information and pictures of *Petrović Roses* go to <http://www.petrovicroses.rs/>

[www.petrovicroses.co.yu](http://www.petrovicroses.co.yu)



# Roses and rose gardens of New Zealand

by Doug Grant, New Zealand

## Abstract

The development of the rose in New Zealand started with the first introductions in 1814 by the early missionaries. The first varieties included **Crimson China** (*Rosa chinensis semperflorens*), the **Sweet Brier Rose**, *R. eglanteria* (*R. rubiginosa*), the **Dog Rose**, (*R. canina*), the **Chestnut Rose** (*R. roxburghii*) and the Cabbage roses (*R. x centifolia*). Between the years 1850s to 1870s came the French roses such as *R. sempervirens* **Felicite et Perpetue** and the Gallica **Anais Segalas**. Towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and through the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century William Lippiatt played a major part in extending the development of the rose as a nurseryman, breeder, exhibitor, importer and propagator of roses. In more recent times, rose breeders in New Zealand have played an important part the development of new types and varieties. Well-known breeder Sam McGredy was also instrumental in the introduction of Plant Variety Rights for new varieties. It is now one hundred years since the establishment of the first public rose garden in New Zealand at Hagley Park in Christchurch in 1910. Other cities and towns throughout the country soon followed this by developing their own rose gardens. Roses have also been featured in the gardens of many homes all over the country.

## Early Rose Introductions

The first rose to be introduced into New Zealand was by the Christian missionaries from England in 1814. This rose, **Crimson China**, *Rosa chinensis semperflorens*, became popularly known as **Slater's Crimson China**. In spite of its fragile appearance the rose proved very hardy. **Crimson China** has crimson to red coloured semi-doubled flowers with the centre petals sometimes slightly streaked with white. It was discovered in China and released in Britain in 1792. Plants of **Slater's Crimson China** can still be seen growing today at the historic Kemp homestead built in Kerikeri in 1822, where a border of this small rose was planted along the front of the house.

The **Sweet Brier Rose**, *R. eglanteria* (*R. rubiginosa*) had been recorded as being planted in the Bay of Islands sometime between 1815 and 1820. The **Sweet Brier Rose** is pink flowered with a sweet fresh apple like fragrance. It was never really a garden rose but it was useful as a hedge and it flourished under New Zealand conditions and often spread to places it was not welcome, in particular the South Island hill country. The **Sweet Brier** became listed as an outlawed plant in the Noxious Weeds Act of 1900. It is now common in the Central Otago region of the South Island where it still grows wild. Its hips were introduced as a source of vitamin C for the prospectors during the gold rush of the 1860s to combat the dangers of scurvy.

The **Dog Rose**, *R. canina*, was grown in New Zealand in the early 1820s. It was more common around the Auckland area than further north. However, it is still found growing wild in parts of the South Island. It was also used as a source of vitamin C for the gold prospectors. The **Chestnut Rose** *R. roxburghii* was common in the Bay of Islands: a medium to tall shrub with single clear shell pink flowers and with leaves of up to 15 small leaflets. The first Centifolia or Cabbage roses were recorded as being introduced in 1828.

In New Zealand's period of settlement between the years 1850s to 1870s there was the French rose influence. This saw the arrival of new forms and colours. During this period many old roses common in the North such as *R. sempervirens* **Felicite et Perpetue** and the Gallica **Anais Segalas** were introduced into New Zealand. Also in this period there was the establishment of the urban section with fruit trees and vegetable plots and the establishment of local nurseries.

By the 1870s Edward Lippiatt established himself as the leading rose nurseryman in Auckland. His son William opened his own nursery in 1883 and expanded the family rose operation. By 1900 William was sending roses around the country. He became the leading rose grower supplying roses to gardeners and other nurseries. He was an exhibitor at the Auckland Horticultural Society rose shows, produced cut roses, and took an active part in the newly formed New Zealand Association of Nurserymen. He was an importer and propagator of the latest and best roses from Europe's leading breeders.

William Lippiatt was New Zealand's first rose breeder of note. His first rose introduction was **Sir Robert Stout**, a bright red Hybrid Perpetual named after a Liberal politician. He also bred another red Hybrid Perpetual named for Liberal leader and Prime Minister Dick Seddon in 1907. Other creations included **Mrs Lippiatt** (red HP), **Otahuhu hybrid** (HT), and **Enterprise** (HT). It is not known if these roses still exist. As a tribute to this breeder, Dicksons of Northern Ireland named a rose, **W.E. Lippiatt**, in his honour.

## Development of New Zealand Rose Gardens

At the turn of the 20th century, roses had increased in popularity owing to a number of reasons. These included the ease at which they could be grown, they grew almost anywhere in the country, they commanded a high status in colonial gardens, they were not only beautiful but also fashionable. Gardens had become part of homes and there was an increase in private gardening activity.

In the 1890's large areas of land were set aside for public gardens and domains in Dunedin, Oamaru, Christchurch, Nelson, Wellington, Palmerston North

and Auckland. The first formal style public rose garden was opened in Hagley Park in Christchurch in 1910. Other centres had established gardens by 1900, but had not paid much attention to roses. Wellington completed a rosary by 1917, later replaced by a much larger and slightly less formal design, the Lady Norwood Rose Garden, completed in 1953. In Nelson, the Queens Park Garden was completed in 1923, while in Oamaru a garden was designed in 1924. In Auckland, the Parnell Rose Garden was opened in 1934 from land donated by the City Council with 3,000 plants donated by nurseries.

The National Rose Society of New Zealand (later to be called the New Zealand Rose Society) was formed in 1931. The objective was and still is today to "Implant Roses in the Hearts and Gardens of the People". This Society's influence was widened in 1933 with the establishment of the Parnell Rose Garden in Auckland. Following on from the establishment of Parnell, rose gardens have been established in many towns and cities throughout the country (see Appendix 1).

The introduction of the floribunda rose in the 1930's gave a rose with frequent and abundance of flower over the Hybrid tea types. The easy care nature of the floribunda gave support for a new generation of gardener who had land but not necessarily expertise. This assisted the popularity of the rose at that time. The rose **Iceberg** released in 1958 helped the trend for floribundas and it is still widely grown today.

During the 1950s and 60s there was an increase in nurseries specialising in roses. In the mid 1970s the mail order trade gave way to the garden centres. The garden centres were a product of urban growth. There was change in marketing as garden centre customers wanted container grown roses that looked good. At that time there was also an increase in the efficiency of nursery production with budding on to rootstocks. The changing demands of customers with container production also saw the appeal for miniature type roses.

The National Rose Society Trial Grounds opened at Palmerston North in 1969 in part of the Dugald MacKenzie Rose Garden. This was the first trial ground to be established in the Southern Hemisphere for un-named seedling roses, and was supported by all international rose breeders. Here new releases from overseas and local hybridisers are trialled.

## New Zealand Rose Breeders

Sam McGredy IV came to New Zealand from Ireland in 1972 to breed roses and he was instrumental in the introduction of Plant Variety Rights (PVR). Sam McGredy's rose **Matangi** (MACman) was the first variety of any species to obtain plant variety protection in New Zealand. Sam was also involved in the setting up of RINZ (Rose Introducers of New Zealand). This group which ensures breeders are paid royalties, promotes and trials rose varieties. Varieties bred by Sam worthy to note included **Sexy Rexy** (MACrex), **Dublin Bay** (MACdub), **Auckland Metro** (MACbupal), **Paddy Stephens** (MACclack), **Olympiad** (MACauk) and **Aotearoa New Zealand** (MACgenev).

Frank Schuurman, with interests in cut flower varieties, set up in Henderson in the 1970s using his Dutch experience. His aim was to breed spray roses for the cut flower industry and also miniature, patio and ground cover types. Frank's first international success was with the cut variety **Darling** (SUNcredel), also known as **Cream Delight**, a sport of **Sonia**. Other successes included **Tinkerbell** (SUNtink) a soft pink spray and **Little Opal** (SUNpat) the 1992 RINZ award winner.

Novel types and colours have been bred by Nola Simpson with **Hot Chocolate** (SIMcho) and **Chocolate Prince** (SIMchoka) and Rob Sommerfield with **Blackberry Nip** (SOMnip), **Sky Tower** (SOMskywer) and **Kaimai Sunset** (SOMtabco). The breeding of miniature-type roses has been the speciality of Dawn and the late Barry Eagle. Their introductions include **Black Magic** (SOCred), **Calumet** (SOCapan) and **Moonlight Lady** (SOCalp) while and Richard and Betty Walters introduced **Bett's White Delight**. Breeders developing roses for exhibitors include Brian Attfield with **Delightful Lady**, **Apricot Delight** (ATTlight), Nola Simpson with **Silky Mist** (SIMsilco) and **Reflections** (SIMrefs)) and Doug Grant with **Millennium** (GRAlove), also known as **Everlasting Love**, **Cherry Kisses** (GRachloe), and **All My Love** (GRAkita). Breeders of garden roses include Bob Matthews with **Anniversary** (MATTlace) and **Lest we Forget** (MATTzac), David Benny with **Dear One** (CAMalpha) and **Gold Dust** (CAMgen) and George Sherwood with **Kate Sheppard** and **Nancy Steen**.

## The Present Day

After the 1980s in New Zealand there has been an increase in population growth, this has resulted in smaller housing sections and smaller gardens. The advent of seven day a week shopping has increased the number of people employed in shift work and also increased the competition for leisure time. The present economic climate has seen a change in households needing two incomes rather than one. This has equated to more working mothers, again less leisure time and consequently less time available for gardening activities. Increased competition for leisure time has lead to landscaped gardens designed for easy care and low maintenance. Rose plants have not been part of this, as they are perceived as needing higher maintenance. However an exception to this has been the introduction of the "carpet" type roses. They have been used extensively in both domestic and public landscape plantings. Other changes have been a reduction in the number of nurseries and mail order catalogues, a decline in rose plant sales and a drop in membership to rose societies and other gardening groups.

In the year 2009 New Zealand has seen the start of the international recession which has resulted in further changes. However home garden production of vegetables and fruits has become fashionable as a method to cut household expenses. Will this resurgence of gardening activity for food production follow to include roses and other amenity plants in the near future?

# Preserving a disappearing history – the making of *Between the rows*

by Joanne Knight, New Zealand

This book is a collection of stories from rose nurseries in New Zealand, the majority of which have been written by the nursery people themselves.

The idea came from a friend who, about three years ago, said he thought I should write the story of the Kauri Creek Nursery that Norm & I established in the early 1980s which grew to become one of the three biggest old fashioned rose nurseries in New Zealand. At our peak we produced 80,000 roses each year – and sold them all.

I doubted that anyone would be interested in that story, but it dawned on me that, as rose nurseries disappeared because of the fading interest in roses, their memory too would fade away unless their stories were recorded. How awful it would be if establishments like Avenue and Egmont Nurseries should never be heard of again.

The idea of a book grew to be quite specific: to tell the stories about the nurseries who produced the rose plants to sell to Mr & Mrs Home Gardener, like you & me, whether directly or through retailers. It would not include stories of rose breeders or rose retailers. People later asked me why Sam McGredy's story wasn't there and that is why.

This was to be a small project. I did not want to approach a publishing company. I was inspired by the little books that Fiona Hyland produced for the Heritage Roses conference in Dunedin in 2005. That seemed adequate for me. I asked Fiona if she would be interested in helping me and she was. Fiona was Editor of the New Zealand Heritage Rose Journal while the Executive Committee was in Dunedin. She is very capable.

I made a list of every rose nursery I could find. I wrote to them, explaining my project and inviting them to submit a story. I asked them to tell me of other nurseries that I may not have known of. So, I spread the net wide.

Then I started to hound them. If it wasn't one busy time of the year for rose nurseries, it was another! Some of them gave an outright "No". I gave them another chance at a later date and if the answer was still no, I left them alone.

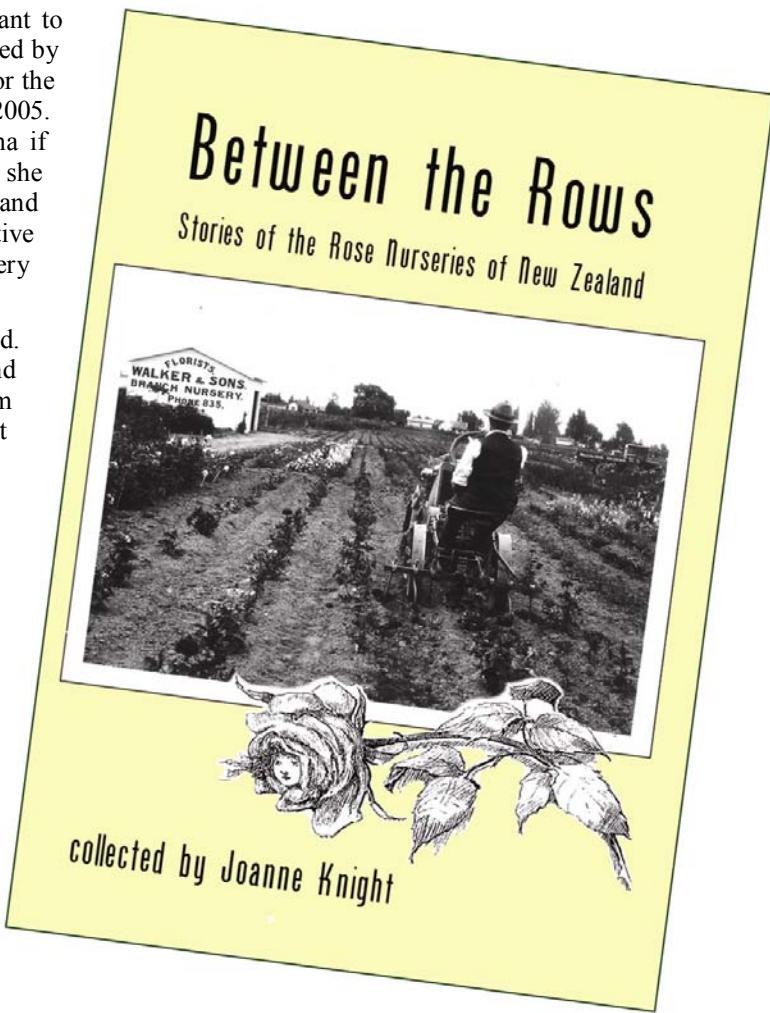
The ones that said "Yes" fell into three categories: those that instantly obliged, those that kept promising, and those who certainly wanted to be in the book, but for whatever reason preferred not to write their stories themselves, and asked me to. Those last folk were very helpful, giving me whatever I needed to write the stories for them. I wrote three stories for others and our own story, and Tony Barnes very kindly wrote the John

Martin story for me. Some were keen for photos to be included, others not.

As the stories arrived, by email mainly, I edited them, ready for passing on to Fiona, and very carefully tried to keep the individual style and 'voice' of the writer. The story of Matthews Rose Nursery was written by Bob, just exactly the way he speaks.... that took some editing but hopefully retains his character! Each finished story and photos went to Fiona in Dunedin who then assembled them into order.

It had taken two years to arrive at this point. Nursery folk are very busy and hard to pin down, and I didn't want to be too much of a pain in the neck. *Commercial Horticulture*, the magazine of the Nursery Industry had written an article to encourage nurseries to come forward with their stories, and I appreciated that.

Because Sam McGredy featured in many of the stories, I asked him if he would write a foreword. He declined but was very interested to see what was happening and visited us one day. Norm & I had never met him before. This seems odd, but we had focused on old fashioned roses rather than modern roses for all those



years, and so our paths never crossed. We thought Sam was great – he stayed for a couple of hours and was very entertaining. There were nurseries that he thought should have been in the book, and when I told him they had declined, he went home and wrote to them, telling them to contact me. He was very enthusiastic and encouraging, telling me it was valuable work I was doing.

Along the way I was encouraged to apply for one of the research grants from Heritage Roses New Zealand which had been established for members to research old roses and create something tangible as a result. Although I wasn't researching roses as such I still applied. I was the only person to do so and I received the money. I had said from the start that any proceeds from sales would go back to HRNZ. More about that later.....

Having passed on all the stories to Fiona, I waited for the next step which was actually printing the book. She had done a perfect job and it was nearly all set to go. I just had to find someone to do the next bit!

Of course, all along the way I had asked Fiona to keep track of her costs and when I asked how much I owed her, she told me it was her gift to me. I sincerely appreciate her kindness and have since made a small gesture to show my appreciation.

While trying not to panic about the next stage, I remembered Lynne Roberts across the road from me. She has her own little publishing business, publishing mainly her own prolific work and that of some other people, also. I phoned her. My problems were over. Lynne took over and between her and her daughter who is part of the business, they had my book produced. Lynne very kindly refused any payment as publisher but I was very happy to pay her daughter \$140 for the work she had to do to get the book ready for the printer. And of course, I had to pay the printer. That was the big cost.

Lynne advised me to get 300 copies printed: price breaks, economies of scale and all that. She said, "Joanne if you can sell 300 copies of a book like this in New Zealand, you have a best seller."

Then I had to start selling them! One thing about this book – it won't date. I can take as long as I like to sell them! The books were sold direct through mail order and through established book retailers. The mail order sales I kept at a very reasonable at \$20 because I'd rather have no profit than be left with boxes of unsold books.

Instead of paying for advertising I scrounged for promotions and reviews. That meant giving away quite a lot of books. For example, *New Zealand Gardener* agreed to promote my book, but only if I would give two copies as give-aways. If you want a magazine or newspaper to help you, you have to give them a book. Also, I gave a copy to each of the people who had helped along the way. It seemed a frightening number of books were given away. The nurseries featured in the book were also all given a copy and I had imagined they would buy further copies for whatever reasons, to

give to customers or family members, and some did, but not as many as I had expected.

A lot of libraries have copies, thanks to Lynne's system of establishing books in libraries.

Retailers who have sold them are Touchwood Books, Bruce McKenzie Booksellers in Palmerston North, Books a Plenty in Tauranga, the University Bookshop in Dunedin, Carsons Bookshop in Thames, and the Katikati Paper Plus. Basically they bought them at not much over cost price. The book proved to be an excellent Christmas present, so the shops told me.

Tasman Bay Roses in Motueka kindly bought a good number, to sell via their rose catalogue.

I now have 40 copies left, after starting to sell them last September.

While there isn't going to be a huge profit to return to HRNZ, there will be some hundreds of dollars when it's all tallied up. Income and expenditure has been itemised separately in Norm's computer accounting programme. I have taken no money whatsoever from sales. How do you add up costs of time and travel? I haven't bothered. The point of the whole exercise was to secure the stories of the nurseries. It's been a really enjoyable and satisfying project. I never intended to make money from it, and I'm so happy that nearly all the books have gone.

# Roses from Cuttings

Reprinted from the March, 1994 issue of *The Cherokee Rose*

by Malcolm Manners, USA

If you plan to do any propagation of roses, it is important to be able to root cuttings. If you want own-root plants, they are most easily produced from cuttings. If you intend to bud or graft plants, you'll still need to produce the rootstock plants from cuttings. Fortunately, most of the roses which thrive in Florida are also reasonably easy to root. This article will offer some suggestions for maximizing your success rate.

## 1. Age of the cuttings

While most rose varieties may root at nearly any age, generally the best cuttings are taken from firm but young stems. On a repeat-flowering variety, that would be stems on which the flowers are fading or from which the petals have just fallen. On a once-flowering plant, you could also use stems from which the flowers are fading, in the spring, or similar-age wood from subsequent growth flushes throughout the summer or fall.

## 2. Leaves

Roses, like most plants, root best if the cutting has some leaves still attached. The leaves provide sugars from photosynthesis, as well as root-promoting hormones. Some varieties will root without leaves, but it is always better to have some leaves on the cutting. In Holland, cuttings are commonly made with only one leaf; most Floridians use more – usually 2 to 5. Be careful not to let the cuttings wilt, since they are far less likely to survive and produce roots after wilting has occurred. We keep a spray bottle of water handy to mist over our cuttings while working on them, to keep them crisp.

## 3. Cuts and wounds

Some plants are picky about exactly where the cut is made, its angle, etc. However, most roses are not at all finicky – you can leave a bud and leaf scar (node) at the base, or you can leave just a smooth area of stem (internode) – roses have the ability to form roots at any point along the stem. For very difficult varieties, there may be some value in making the cuttings with a node at the base, since node areas tend to root somewhat more readily.

Many people wound the base of the cutting, either by making vertical slits in it with a knife,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 inch long, just scoring the bark, or by tearing the bark off of one or two sides of the base of the cutting with the pruning shear blade. I've also heard of people pounding the bottom  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch or so of the cutting with a hammer, to shred it. There is reason to believe that wounded cuttings root better than those without wounds, although I don't recommend the hammer method.

## 4. Rooting hormones

Most rose varieties can be rooted without the use of hormone preparations. This is because rose cuttings contain auxin (indoleacetic acid; "IAA"), a natural root-promoting hormone. This is produced by the leaves and growing buds or shoot tips, and accumulates at the bottom of a cutting, exactly where you want roots to form. Some roses apparently don't produce adequate supplies of auxin, so are difficult to root, or if they root at all, they produce few, weak, roots. So many growers apply a commercial hormone preparation, such as Rootone-F, Hormodin I or II, Hormonex, Dip-n-Gro, Rhizopon, etc. These products all contain a synthetic auxin, usually indolebutyric acid (IBA) and/or naphthaleneacetic acid (NAA). While natural auxin (IAA) is commercially available, it is almost never used for rooting cuttings, since it is astoundingly expensive and doesn't work as well as the other two materials. Applied auxin materials generally do not *speed up* the rooting process, but they do result in a higher percentage of the cuttings forming roots at all, and a greater number of roots on each cutting. At FSC, we've used a number of products, all with reasonably good success. Recently, we've used Hormodin II almost exclusively. It's readily available, relatively inexpensive, and very effective.

## 5. Willow water

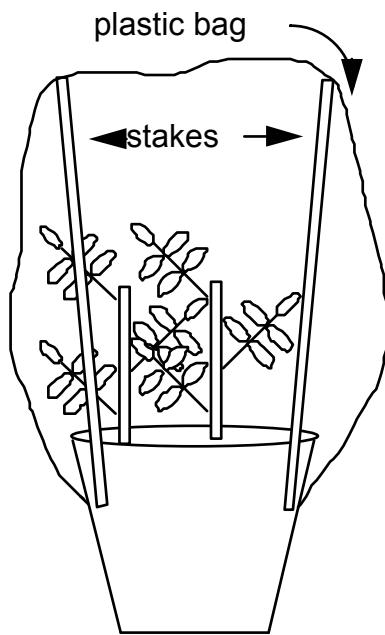
Another material that has something of a cult-like following, is willow water. Cuttings made from willow trees (*Salix spp.*) are exceptionally easy to root, and it has been found that if pieces of willow twigs are steeped in water for a period of time (there are many recipes – perhaps we can publish some later), then cuttings of some other plant (e.g., a rose) are soaked in the brew, the cuttings become easier to root. Dramatic results have been shown with birch trees, rhododendron, camellia, and mung beans. The theory is that auxin alone is insufficient to cause rooting; there must be an additional substance, tentatively called "rhizocaline," which acts with auxin to stimulate root formation. Plants with an abundance of both substances are easy to root with no external hormone applications. Plants which root easily with a commercial auxin preparation must have adequate natural rhizocaline, but they lack adequate auxin. Still other plants, which are difficult to root even with an auxin preparation, must lack natural rhizocaline. It is these plants which would benefit most from a willow water treatment. It's a nice theory, which seems quite reasonable, and there appears to be good evidence in its favor. But the substance rhizocaline has never been isolated and identified. Also, there is apparently no published data indicating that it is beneficial on roses. To date, I've never seen the results of a well-designed scientific experiment, testing the effects of willow water on roses. We tried to do such an experiment at FSC, a

couple years ago, but all of the cuttings rotted (note, that's *rotted*, not *rooted*). So, we didn't prove anything. We'll have to try it again. There are *many* rosarians who use it regularly, and are quite convinced that it is highly beneficial.

## 6. Moisture

One of the most important factors in successfully rooting cuttings is maintaining adequate moisture, both in the soil and in the form of humidity in the air. Commercial growers usually use an intermittent mist system, which sprays a fine mist of water over the cuttings for a few seconds every few minutes to preventing wilting. Most such systems are set up with two clocks: a 24-hour clock which switches the system on at sunrise and off at sunset, since cuttings don't need to be misted at night; and a 10-minute clock (or some similar short period of time) to turn on the water valve for the short bursts of mist at several-minute intervals, throughout daylight hours.

If you don't want to go to the effort and expense of installing a mist system in your garden, Charles Walker demonstrated an effective, inexpensive substitute, at the Heritage Rose Foundation Conference here, in the spring of 1992. You stick your cuttings in pots (1, 2, or 3-gallon sizes are convenient) then cover the pot with a plastic bag. You can use sticks or stakes in the sides of the pot to hold the bag up off of the cuttings, and you can tie or rubber-band the bag to the sides of the pot (see illustration).



## 7. Light

If you have an open mist bed, which doesn't build up heat, we find that the brighter the light is, the better rooting we get. FSC's mist bed gets full sun from about 10:00 a.m. until nearly sunset. If you use the bag-over-the-pot method, you'll have to provide some shade to prevent the cuttings from getting too hot.

## 8. Season

Most cuttings seem to root best for us in the spring, after the weather is warm but before it becomes miserably hot. May and June are good months. But we do root cuttings all year. They take longer, and a smaller percentage of them root in cold or very hot weather, but we can get reasonably good rooting nearly any time.

I've been told by Mike Shoup, of the Antique Rose Emporium, that Gallica roses are most successfully rooted in October, so if you are rooting something that doesn't work well at one time of the year, it may be worth trying again at a different season.

## 9. Timing

In May or early June, some varieties will have good roots in as little as 2 weeks. Nearly any variety can be rooted in 3-4 weeks, that time of year. At other times, the process takes longer, up to 7 or 8 weeks from December to February. There are several ways to tell whether a cutting is rooted. You can tug lightly on it, and if it resists being pulled out of the pot, it is likely rooted. Also, you can look for roots growing out the drainage holes in the bottom of the pot. Cuttings which are putting out a flush of new leaves almost always have roots, whereas unrooted cuttings tend just to sit there, not showing signs of new top growth.

Once your cuttings are rooted and you've removed them from the mist or the bag, harden them off for a few days by putting the pots in a cool, shady area. Moving them immediately into hot sunshine may damage or even kill the plants. Once they have a good large root system and are putting out new growth, you can move them into brighter light.

If your goal is the production of rootstocks for budding or grafting, you should wait several (4-6) weeks after rooting the cuttings before you do the grafting or budding operation. Working on them any earlier is likely to break off a lot of tender roots as you jostle the top of the plant around. Give the roots time to toughen up first. Of course, you can "cleft bench graft" your plants, making the graft *before* rooting the cutting, then allowing the plant to root and heal the graft union at the same time.

# Pruning roses – breaking all the rules

## We learn from science and debunk outdated notions

by Gregg Lowery, USA

In the 1990s the Royal National Rose Society held the first scientific trials to study the effects of pruning on roses. At their rose trial fields, in the Gardens of the Rose at Chiswell Green, the Society planted side-by-side blocks of roses that were treated in three different manners.

The first block was pruned in what was determined by consensus to be a standard British method of rose pruning, thinning old wood, opening the centers of the plants and shortening the bushes to 18-24" (45-60cm) high. The second block was 'rough pruned,' with all stems hand pruned back to a single level, square cut, and plants not thinned. The third block was simply sheered back with mechanical hedge clippers to contain the plants within the spaces allotted them in the beds, without taking the plants down substantially in height.

In deciding what to observe and study, the Committee came up first with a short list of the goals that they believed to be the reasons why gardeners prune. These they arrived at again by consensus, based upon what members of the Society voiced.

The following list of these goals are stated as premises for why we prune roses:

- To encourage larger and more perfect blooms
- To increase the quantity of bloom
- To prevent disease from establishing on the plants

If, like me, you find these familiar reasons that you have heard for pruning your roses, you may be surprised, even shocked by the results.

By observing floral form, counting flower stems, and observing and quantifying the presence of disease on each plant, the trials took stock of the effects of pruning over a period of nearly a decade. The RNRS membership engaged in a spirited debate as each round of reports were published, and many experienced, long-time rose growers were outraged at the results.

A preliminary report after three years suggested that 'regardless of the method of pruning, the roses all do well.' Subsequent updates in the Journal seemed to confirm this, and a firestorm of controversy ensued. So is there any real value in careful hand-pruning of roses, or should we just sweep through the garden with a chain saw and control growth a simpler way?

Jon Dodson of Mottisfont Abbey has recently shared with me a letter published in the RHS Journal *The Garden* in 2007 from David Bartlett who worked on those pruning trials and their aftermath. David indicated that the hedge sheared plants took much longer to prune because of the tedious job of raking prunings from the bushes, and, he noted that this group also exhibited die-back and disease which soon spread to the other blocks of hand pruned plants. In the end eleven of the twelve blocks of trial plants had to be completely replanted.

### Is traditional pruning the only way?

As a collector of found roses, I have long been sceptical of the notion that roses won't thrive unless we carefully control them with pruning. The hundred-year-old rose plants that I have encountered in cemeteries, unpruned, unwatered, and uncultivated, tell the story. If you let a rose grow unchecked, it will do what it must do to thrive: it will grow. Its roots will cut deeply into the soil to secure moisture and seek nutrients, and these deep roots will pay off over time, allowing the plant to survive long periods of drought.

There remains however one reason for pruning that was not measured by the study: we prune to limit the size of the plants. While this may seem obvious, it is usually overlooked when we get down to the question of what is the best method for pruning roses. The traditions of rose culture that are communicated in most of the books we read, really have grown from the formal French-style rose gardens of the early 20th century. In these geometrically designed spaces, roses are used as masses of color, masses to be shaped and constrained within the architecture of the garden. Keeping the plants short, or closely tied to a trelliswork or to an arbor, was a part of the design. A trial that compares mechanical vs. handwork to impose this constraint on plants does not in the end address the question of why we choose to garden with roses in such an outmoded way.

During the past hundred years or so, the predominance of Hybrid Tea roses in gardens, and the prevailing notion that rose gardens were neatly groomed, geometric parterres of flower color have tended to blind us to the true nature and habits of roses.

The revival of interest in old roses and wild roses called for a new understanding of how roses grow.

Old roses are shrubby plants that seem more at home in gardens of a more relaxed style where vines, perennials and complimentary flowering shrubs mingled together creating a romantic atmosphere. Having made a romantic garden of that sort myself, I've come to understand that even that seemingly uncontrolled effect requires pruning as I attempt to balance the competing forces of nature within the romantic mix.



FIG. 4.—French Secateurs.

## The Zen of rose pruning

The RNRS study, contrary to what I had been told at one time, did not include a control block of unpruned roses. I am confident that such a block would have far out-performed any group of pruned roses. When we prune we do it not for the benefit of the roses, but for the aesthetic balance in our gardens.

Thirty years of pruning at roses has helped me to understand that getting to know the rose before you prune it should be rule #1. You might call it 'Zen and the Art of Rose Pruning!'

If we observe a plant, note how it has grown, where it seems to be putting its most recent energy, we will understand better the organism that we are about to diminish.

Woody plants are highly efficient organisms that do not waste energy. When one branch is over-shadowed by another, the plant gradually diverts its energy toward the branch higher up, more exposed to sunlight, and more capable of effective photosynthesis. Eventually an older branch, buried within may die out altogether. Yet before that branch dies most of its fluids and nutrients move through the vascular system of the plant to feed active and successful new growth elsewhere. We may scowl at a fading cane on a rose bush and say to ourselves, 'that one is useless', but in truth, the plant will continue to find it useful. We ought to recognize that we want to remove that cane simply because we can't bear the thought of leaving half-dead canes on the plant – they look so untidy!

A rose bush in December can be a tattered-looking complex of crossing and awkward stems, a confusing mass that is utterly incomprehensible.

In fact it is a highly organized system, more flexible and versatile than your computer. The system is simple, repetitive and predictable. The parts are color coded: brown for used-up, yellow-green for fading, gray for mature, green for youthful, and reddish-green for juvenile.

Our job is to pay attention to those cues, and to evaluate what parts of the plant are healthy mature canes, youthful canes full of unbroken growth buds and soft new growth.

We want to retain the best of the mature wood, and the new strong shoots that have hardened off and have the potential to grow lots of new shoots next year. We should be restricting what we cut out to dead wood, fading and superceded canes, and soft growth at the top and outside of the plant. Pruning then gets restricted to the growth that the plant has mostly used up, and to the burst of new flowering growth on the outside of the plant.

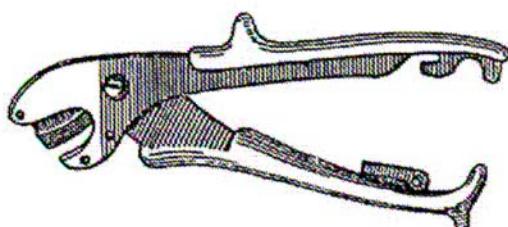


FIG. 5.—The Levin Secateurs (American).

## Easier said than done!

This approach to pruning may sound logical, but as soon as we get into the garden to apply the concept we can easily be overwhelmed by the mass of growth on just one plant. It takes some time to develop the habit of looking in this way. But I do believe that it is a skill that each of us can learn, and once learned is much more straightforward than the sort of rules of pruning that are commonly taught.

Some of the most widely espoused pruning dos and don'ts just don't ring true when you try to apply knowledge of how plants grow, and logic.

My favorite misdirections include these:

*Always prune to an outward-facing bud!* The premise here is that we don't want the plants to grow in on themselves and to become crowded in the center. The assumption is that if we prune to just above a growth bud, the plant will produce its strongest new growth from there. But if you observe plants, in the spring after you have done your work, you'll notice that more often than not the plant produces a much stronger growth from the next bud down, or even the bud below, that is not pointing in the same direction.

Plants grow in ways that will always be mysterious to us; they are responding to the direction of the sun, the shade caused by new growth on other branches, the ambient light in a particular direction that is governed by walls, trees and other plants around them. It might be possible after many years of observing a plant to get a better grasp on how the plant's growth responds to conditions, but for simplicity's sake, I remain humble in the face of this great mystery, and ignore the advice.

*Always make your pruning cuts on a 45 degree angle.* The explanation given for this widely followed practice goes something like this: the angled cut will allow moisture from dew or rain to run off the fresh cut and not collect, harboring bacteria which will enter the wound and damage the cane. When you place the high side of the angled cut above the bud it will serve to protect the growth bud from damage.

Angled pruning cuts however produce a larger surface wound than cuts that are made straight across the stem. A larger wound takes more energy for the plant to seal over and heal. And the idea that an angled cut would shed water better than a straight cut is based on the mistaken premise that rose canes grow straight up, when in fact most canes grow at an angle to the perpendicular. So, a straight cut will always be tilted toward the ground, shedding any excess moisture. And, any cut made a quarter of an inch above the growth bud will help to protect the newly emerging shoot. More importantly, straight cuts are easier to make; the classic angled pruning cut must be carefully observed from just the right point of view to get right. A straight cut is easy to perform from any perspective. You'll do a lot less moving around the plant in order to prune it well.

*Open up the center of the plant.* The idea is that plants grow too crowded for their own good, and need to be opened up and exposed to sunlight within. This allows better air circulation within the plant, resulting in less

disease, as rose diseases thrive in semi-humid conditions. While there may be value in getting sunlight into a plant, the result will be that the plant usually will fill in that space with new growth, often coming from larger growth buds lower down on the canes where the canes are thicker. This in fact creates lots of soft growth inside the plant, and soft, leafy growth is more susceptible to disease than woody canes.

Anyone who has grown Tea Roses in a hospitable climate is likely to have noticed that many cultivars do NOT renew themselves with new basal canes when thinned in this manner: their main branches are few, long-lived and very productive of tip growth that blooms continually.

An un-pruned rose will tend to build up most of its growth on the outer shell of the plant; it continues to increase its overall size on the outside, building and building. New canes will appear whenever conditions favor them; a shaft of light where the plant opens from the weight of branches that bow outward, for instance. When you are trying to limit the size of the plant, pruning below this bushy outer shell will tend to bring light further into the bush, and new growth from within, lower down on the plant will likely result.

This is in fact the way that I prune many of my roses, because I am trying to limit their ultimate size. I try not to prune hard, but rather to keep the roses close to their mature dimensions in order to allow good root growth as well as a natural, graceful shape to the variety. By removing the outer shell of this year's growth I can expect new shoots to come from both the tips of canes, and from points lower down on the canes, inside the plant. In this way the plant gets its size limited, but also renews cane growth on the inside.

*After pruning pick up & destroy all fallen rose leaves!*  
The argument is that rose leaves harbor disease spores that will cause new infestations next spring. These fungal spores are so virulent that you should not even put them in compost heaps but send them off in plastic bags to the local landfill.

We are indebted to a scientific study done at the University of California at Berkeley in recent years. It showed that while green leaves can harbor fungal spores, once the leaves die, the fungi die on them. This leaves us with a simple cleanup process, and one that obeys the basic rules of recycling in the plant world.

All leaves when dead decompose and add to the soil the nutrients that were stored in them. They become compost. If we want to avoid the possibility that some of those leaves will stay green and keep fungi alive, we need only cover the leaf litter on the ground with a light covering of decomposed organic matter – mulch. They will then die completely and become an additive to the soil to enrich it.

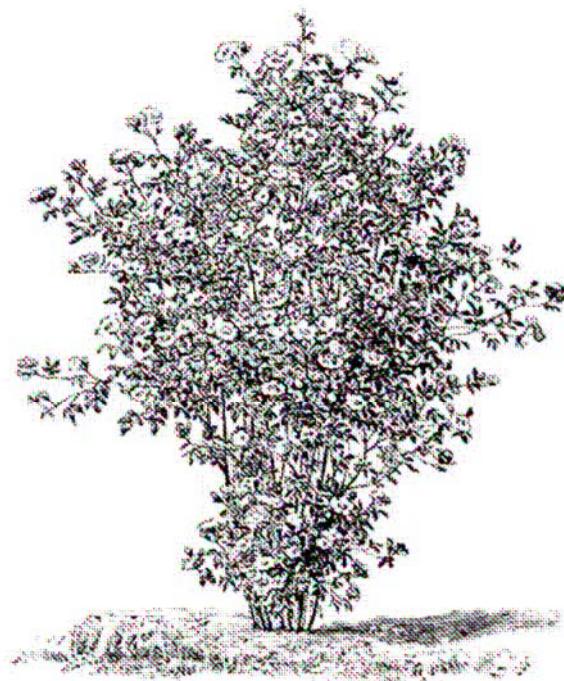
## To Work!

Our work is now a simpler process. We aren't trying to think of all of the pruning we MUST do for the health of the plant. We understand that we only prune to make the plants fit in their places in the garden. And we'd like to complete our work and look upon it as aesthetically satisfying.

Nothing gives me a greater sense of accomplishment than garden cleanup and tidying. But now I strive to do the least harm, rather than the greatest good for the plants when I prune.

Selecting the right rose for the right place makes rose pruning a much easier task. When there is room for a variety of rose to grow to maturity without yearly hard pruning, there is less pruning involved and we get more quickly to the end of the work.

I always love standing back and thinking how well my plants have grown each year, and how happy they appear when I interfere with them less.



# My life with roses

by Gwen Fagan, South Africa



Gwen Fagan  
photographed Annari van der Merwe

Born of an Irish father and Afrikaanse ‘boeremeisie’, Gwen Fagan was reared by her mother’s eldest brother who thought that her mother was not a fit person to rear a little girl. This was after the Irish father had run off to marry his third wife, a red head, and the mother was forced to earn a living by teaching singing at Stellenbosch.

“You married a divorced *Uitlander* against your father’s wishes. You go to dances and play cards for money. You back the horses and, worst of all, you don’t go to church,” her brother told her, “So the child will live with my family here on the farm so that she can be taught the ways of a proper Christian.”

I lived on the farm till I was seven and was then allowed to go to my mother, together with a letter to guide her on how she should see to my further proper upbringing.

The shock of being confined to a small room after having run around freely in the vast Swartland veld and experiencing the wonders of the wheat fields from their sowing to their reaping, had to be met with innovative planning, for I had to feel earth between my fingers and see green things grow and mature.

The shopkeeper from whom we hired our room was confronted by this serious little freckle face and asked whether he would be kind enough to clear the yard below our window of boxes and other rubbish so that she might have a small piece of earth to garden. This is how my passion for gardening started and became eventually an inseparable part of my life.

During my school days I grew only vegetables for our daily meals – no roses then, as they were far beyond my means. But roses were to enter my life later when a cousin planned the first rose garden in the dry, arid village of Moorreesburg. The two of us would sit for

hours poring over rose catalogues, choosing the most exotic names. As I remember them, I get gooseflesh, as I did then – **Signora Puricelli, Comtessa Vandall, Ophelia, Etoile de Holland**. Oh, the beautiful roses of the late 1930’s!

The romance of the rose smouldered in me while I studied medicine and did my internship and married, until eventually I could plant my own rose garden at our first home on a small holding outside Pretoria. I bought my plants from our neighbour “Buss Nurseries” where the young Ludwig was an apprentice: **Charles Mallerin, Virgo, Happiness, First Love, Charlotte Armstrong**. Oh, the beautiful fragrant roses of the late 1940s!

But when we moved to Cape Town and built our own house in Camps Bay in the 1960’s, the South Easter and the rocky hill on which my garden lay, called for sensible *fynbos*. No roses.

Then came my new engagement with roses, when Lady Anne Barnard told me that roses used to grow in the 18<sup>th</sup> century garden of *Tuynhuys*, which my husband Gabriel was restoring in the late 1960s. As it was my task to design and plant this parterre garden with the correct plants, I called to Kew for help, and their kind donation of suitable rose material was grafted at Kirstenbosch. When these plants were not welcomed by the Public Works head gardener, who had his own plant list, the rose plants landed up in our newly restored 18<sup>th</sup> century farm garden at Boschendal.

But by then their names had been lost, and so my great research to identify these roses, and the other old roses which I started to find, took hold of me and inspired an intense interest which governed my life for the next ten years, and ever after. Where had South African roses originally come from? How did they look? Where were they planted? and What were they called?

The collection gathered from old farms, cemeteries, old villages and roadsides, grew and flourished at Boschendal, where a special nursery was created for them. What happiness when I started attending Heritage Rose Conferences in other countries and in South Africa, meeting friends and comparing notes with other rose enthusiasts who shared a similar passion for these old varieties. Encouraged by them, and feeling the need to document my Cape findings, led to the publication of my rose book *Roses at the Cape of Good Hope* which was illustrated by my husband, whose passion fortunately was photography. I think it was his beautiful photographs which led to its sale worldwide and to three prints, now all sold out.

Most particular were the rose ladies from the East Cape who asked me to open their tenth rose show, and then presented me with a **Gwen Fagan** rose. “What would you particularly like a rose with your name to look like”, Ludwigg had asked me.

“Very full, voluptuous, shocking pink, disease free, wonderfully fragrant and vigorous, just like me!” And that’s what I got –the most beautiful of all dark pink fragrant roses, named for me. How proud I was.

My last rose garden was even more of a joy to me than any of my other rose encounters. One hour’s drive from our home, next to a running stream and with gentle weather for rose growing between the mountains of Grabouw, I worked every Saturday with two helpers to remove huge rocks, fill the holes with good soil, build rockeries with soil between them for rose sculptures, build rock walls to support climbing roses, build pergolas, plant rose hedges, and plant groups of rose shrubs with companion plants. I gardened happily from early to late, and at the end of the day, picked large bunches of flowers to take home for my week’s fragrance.

For ten years I rose-gardened here to my heart’s content, but was then persuaded to sell my beloved garden because my family did not think that my Saturday’s drives past numerous squatter camps was safe: “What if you get a flat wheel?”

Goodbye rose garden! I shall never forget you.

I have learned to fill my life and switch my interests to my husband’s architectural team, of which I am now an enthusiastic and very active member. Amongst the many interesting projects that we are involved in, I still plan rose gardens for some of our clients, so roses are still in my life.

When overcome with nostalgia, I buy bunches of shop roses for my office desk. They last a surprisingly long time, and are so beautiful – but, oh dear, where is the fragrance?





Gwen Fagan and her rose garden



# Texas Teas

by Claude Graves, Curator Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden

The Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden contains the greatest number of individual varieties of Tea Roses of any garden in Texas, and is one of the larger collections of Teas in the United States. Dean and Carol Osweld built the garden on their commercial venture, the Chambersville Tree Farm, on their property near McKinney, 30 miles north of Dallas, Texas. Dean and Carol had began to grow out disease resistant roses in large containers for landscape contractors, and they wanted to create a display garden for the roses. I convinced them to expand the concept of their "display" garden into a study garden designed to fit into the Heritage Rose Foundations' proposed scheme of regional gardens. The HRF's plan was to recognize gardens around the country growing the heritage roses which are well adapted to that specific area.

The current garden occupies 5.5 acres of a 25 acre site dedicated to the expanding rose gardens. Because of our warm climate the decision was made to limit the classes of roses grown to primarily Teas, Chinas, Noisettes, and Hybrid Musks, all of which do very well in our climate. An important feature of the garden is that the roses are planted on exceptionally large centres to allow for more vigorous varieties to grow to their full potential size, and thereby eliminate (or greatly reduce) the need for severe pruning. The China roses are planted on twelve foot centres and the Teas are planted on twenty foot centres. The first roses were planted into the ground in August 2006 on a 100°F Day. (Yes you can plant roses anytime, if you can keep them well irrigated, which we did by using a system which places a bubbler at the base of every individual plant).

No chemical fertilizers or pesticides are used at the Chambersville Tea Farm or in the rose garden. The only fertilizing the roses receive is that supplied by composting hardwood mulch, which replicates the process of the forest floor. A minimum of three inches of hardwood mulch is maintained around the base of every rose bush. This process of duplicating the forest floor (utilized by Mike Shoup for years at the Antique Rose Emporium) was researched by the Texas Agrilife Extension Service, Texas A&M System, in their Earth Kind™ Rose Research over the last fifteen years. The most visible result of this testing has been numerous astounding test gardens of beautiful vigorous roses that have NEVER been fertilized.

Tea roses constitute the largest collection of the classes of roses at Chambersville. There are 80 individual varieties currently planted in the ground with a few more in various stages of rooting and being grown out in containers. As most of the roses are planted into the garden during the summers of 2007 and 2008 a great many of the plants are still relatively small and immature, however their potential is beginning to be seen. Many of the original 30 Teas planted in 2006 are

now reaching respectable size and confirming the wisdom of the twenty foot spacing.

The original planting of 30 Tea Roses consisted of the more common and easily obtained varieties. Most of these original roses were obtained from Mike Shoup at the Antique Rose Emporium in Brenham, Texas, and Mark Chamblee of Chamblee Roses in Tyler, Texas. To obtain more unusual and harder to find Teas we turned to Gregg Lowery and Philip Robinson at Vintage Gardens in Sebastopol, California. Vintage offer a very large selection of heritage roses, however most available only as very small plants in 4" liners, and in many cases specific varieties must be custom rooted. Over the last two years we have been growing out these small rooted cuttings to a size large enough to plant into this very much unprotected garden. Included in this article is a sidebar listing the Tea Roses in the Chambersville Tea collection. Some of the most interesting roses in the garden are among the many found roses. Texas is the home of the Texas Rose Rustlers, who were among the first groups in the United States to begin an organized effort to find and preserve the rapidly disappearing "old" roses. In honor of the Texas Rose Rustlers the Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden includes a collection of many of the roses found in Texas. This focus on found roses has been expanded to include numerous found roses among the Tea and China rose collections beyond those just found in Texas. We are hopeful that by displaying these unknown roses to the knowledgeable rosarians visiting the garden we might perhaps learn the true identity of some of these roses.

**McClinton Tea** is a beautiful Tea Rose discovered in historic Natchitoches, Louisiana. The semi-double, bright pink, strongly Tea scented large flowers feature a reverse of darker pink shading. It has been suggested that this rose may be the real **Mme de Tartas** or possibly the real **Souvenir d'un Ami**. What ever its real identity... it is a wonderful addition to our garden.

Another rose of great beauty and much interest is "**Miss Caroline**", most likely a sport of **Duchess de Brabant**, discovered by Ruth Knopf in South Carolina, and named for one of her daughters. The very fragrant bloom is best described by Greg Lowery: "Identical in habit and flower colour to the parent, but with charming pointed ribbon-like petals that create a unique floral form we have never seen before."

A rose fast becoming a favourite with visitors to CHRG is **Rainbow**, a rare sport of **Papa Gontier**. The strongly scented clear flowers striped carmine pink and blush standout in the midst of the surrounding less flamboyant roses.

We are attempting to collect as many of the Bermuda Mystery Roses as possible at Chambersville. The intrigue of these found roses, many of whom may be lost roses of great importance, is a very important part

of the collection at Chambersville. The Teas **Smith's Parish** and its sport **Red Smith's Parish** (discovered by Dr Malcolm Manners) are wonderful examples of earlier teas with their simpler flower form. The red sport is of interest because of the very unstable nature of the red colour change, which frequently reverts back to white or various degrees of red/white on multiple blooms on the same plant.

Last October the Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden celebrated its third anniversary with RoseDango, a day of lectures, Texas barbecue and garden tour. RoseDango 2009 will be expanded to be a two-day event in conjunction with the City of Farmers Branch, Texas whose multiple municipal rose gardens feature the largest EarthKind™ Trial Garden in America with over 100 varieties of roses replicated in four randomized blocks. These 400 roses are undergoing scientific testing to identify the most disease resistant varieties.

Speakers at RoseDango 2009 will include Stephen Scanniello, President of the Heritage Rose Foundation and Marilyn Wellan, Past President of the American Rose Society, in honor of their selection as the 2009 Outstanding Rosarians of the World for their cooperative effort to bring together the old rose and modern rose factions in the understanding that all roses are worthy of protection and preservation. For more information on "RoseDango - A Celebration of Roses", go to <http://www.rosedango.com>.

If your travels bring you to North Texas either next October for RoseDango or at any other time please let us know when you are coming, we love to share our garden!

Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden Tea Roses		
Variety	Date	Hybridizer
Adam	1833	Adam
Alexander Hill Gray	1911	Dickson
Alliance Franco-Russe	1899	Goinard
Amazone	1872	Ducher
"Angels Camp Tea"	found	unknown
"Arcadia Louisiana Tea	found	unknown
Baronne Henriette de Snoy	1897	Bernaix, A
Beaute Inconstante	1892	Pernet-Ducher
"Bermuda's Kathleen"	found	Unknown
Blumenschmidt	1906	Schmidt, J.C.
Bon Silene	1837	Hardy
Bridesmaid	1893	Moore
Cels Multiflora	1836	Hardy, Cels
Clementina Carbonieri	1913	Bonfiglioli & Filglio
Comtesse Emmeline de Guigne	1903	Nabonnand
Comtesse Festetics Hamilton	1897	Nabonnand
Devoniensis Cl	1858	Pavit
Dr Grill	1886	Bonnaire
Duchesse de Brabant	1857	Bernede
Duke of York	1894	Paul
Elie Beauvillian	1887	Beauvillian
Enchantress	1904	Cook, J.W.
"Frances Grate's Tea"	found	unknown
Francis Dubreuil	1894	Dubreuil
Freiherr von Marschal	1903	Lambert
General Gallieni	1878	Nabonnand

Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden Tea Roses		
Variety	Date	Hybridizer
General Schablikine	1878	Nabonnand
Gilbert Nabonnand	1897	Nabonnand
"Huntington Pink Tea"	found	Unknown
Isabella Sprunt	1855	Sprunt
Duchesse d'Orleans	1860	Robert
La Sylphide	1848	Boyau
Lady Hillingdon	1910	Lowe & Shawyer
Le Pactole	1841	Miellez
Le Vesuve	1825	Laffey
Maman Cochet	1893	Cochet, S
Marie d'Orleans	1883	Nabonnand, G
Marie Van Houtte	1871	Ducher
McClinton Tea	found	Unknown
"Miss Caroline"	1997	Knopf, Ruth
Mlle de Sombreuil	1851	Robert
Mlle Franziska Kruger	1879	Nabonnand, G
Mme Antoinne Mari	1901	Mari, A
Mme Antoine Rebe	1900	Laperriere
Mme Driout	1902	Thirat
Mme Joseph Schwartz	1880	Schwartz
Mme Lombard	1878	Lacharme, F.
Mme Maurin	1853	Guillot pere
Mme Wagram	1894	Bernaix, A
Mme Bravy	1846	Guillot pere
Mons Tillier	1891	Bernaix, A.
Mrs B. R. Cant	1901	Cant, B. R.
Mrs Dudley Cross	1908	Paul, W.
Mrs Foley-Hobbs	1910	Dickson
Niles Cochet	1906	California Nursery
Niphетос	1841	Bougere
Papa Gontier	1883	Nabonnand, G
Papillon	1881	Nabonnand
Perle des Jardins, Cl	1890	Henderson
Rainbow	1899	Sievers
"Red Smith' Parish"	1997	Unknown
Rhodoloque Jules Gravereaux	1908	Fontes
Rival de Paestum	1841	Beluze
"Rock Hill Peach Tea"	found	unknown
Rosette Delizy	1922	Nanonnand, P.
Safrano	1839	Beauregard
"Second Street Tea"	found	unknown
"Smith's Parish"	found	unknown
Souvenir de Germain de St. Pierre	1882	Nabonnand
Souvenir de Therese Levet	1882	Levet, A
Souvenir de Victor Hugo	1885	Bonnaire
Souvenir d'un Ami (Huntington)	1846	Belot-Defougere
Susan Louise	1929	Adam; Stocking
"Thomasville Old Gold"	found	unknown
"Trinity"	found	unknown
"Victor Velidin"	found	unknown
White Mamon Cochet	1896	Cook
William R. Smith	1908	Bagg
"Windsor Tea"	found	unknown

# Royal Roses – a lecture given at Vancouver, 2009

by Sheenagh Harris, South Africa

To be enjoyed in conjunction with your favourite rose encyclopaedia and/or website e.g. Help Me Find Roses <http://www.helpmefind.com/plant/plants.php>

As the rose is the Queen of Flowers you might say all roses are Royal, and indeed they are, but we are going to look at roses named for Royalty – an enormous and fascinating subject.

I have chosen to concentrate on roses named for British Royalty. I believe George IV (1762-1830) was the first British Royal to have his own rose in his lifetime – a large crimson rose. However Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII is probably the earliest British Royal to have a rose named for her, though not in her lifetime. It was raised by Austin's Roses in 1999. (AUSecret) Anne Boleyn was Queen of England for three years before she was beheaded at the Tower of London, and to quote Peter Harkness: "might one be ghoulish and say dead-headed at the Tower of London?!"

Availability of material and information require that I start with Queen Victoria (1819-1901). She had more roses named in her honour than any other Royal, and probably more than any other individual, but then she reigned longer than any other monarch.

The first of 21 roses to be named in her honour was **Princesse Victoria**, a yellow Tea. Then came **Queen Victoria** (Jean Laffay 1830). As Victoria only came to the throne in 1837 one questions the title given to the rose named for her in 1830!

**La Reine** (Laffay 1840), by which time she was on the throne, hence La Reine. **Reine Victoria** in 1837, the year she ascended the throne, when she was only 16, also known as **The Shell Rose**. Another **La Reine** 1842 – very confusing! And a third **La Reine** (Laffay 1842). **Souvenir de la Reine d'Anglaterre** (1855), a seedling of **La Reine**, named to commemorate Victoria and Albert's visit to Paris in the same year. **Reine Victoria** (Labruyere, France 1872). Interestingly they are all French bred roses.

**Her Majesty** (1885). Manners and customs were notoriously strict and exacting in royal circles – and it was said of this rose, "Her Majesty makes extraordinary growth under favourable conditions, but a poor show if not treated regally and with Queen's weather" – apparently the weather had a knack of clearing up whenever Queen Victoria was to appear!

There were numerous other roses such as **Empress of India**, **Grande Victoria**, **Victoria**, another **Reine d'Anglaterre**, this one from China, **The Queen** and more. It wouldn't be as easy to name roses for members of the Royal Family today as it appeared to be then. Normally the policy is for the naming of commercial items not to be allowed for the Queen's closest relatives. This applies to UK raisers but the UK Home Office cannot control what overseas breeders do!...

**Prince Albert**, the rose is a Poulsen rose and as far as I can make out is named for the Queen's Consort, although it was named in 1996.

George III's interest in plants fostered the formation of the Horticultural Society of London in 1804, but in 1861 it was under the Presidency of Prince Albert when it became The *Royal* Horticultural Society.

**Prince Albert** was one of the five roses named in his honour in his life time.

Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort had nine children. Between those children 20 roses were named in their honour.

**Princess Royal** – 1846.

Princess Alice (1843), Princess of Great Britain and Ireland was the third child and second daughter of Queen Victoria. This rose is said to have had a deep pink crimson centre and light pink edges.

**Duke of York** (1894)

There were many more roses named for various members of the British Royal family in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, but are sadly no longer available and in most cases not even a picture.

Queen Victoria's son and heir, Edward VII (1841-1910) had four roses named in his honour, one of which is **His Majesty** raised by McGredy in 1909.

In South Africa we have a **King Edward VII School** – (2005) and this red rose was named for the school's centenary in 2002. In South Africa we have 29 roses named for schools.

At the age of 22, Edward VII married (1863) Princess Alexandra of Denmark (1844-1925), a genuine rose enthusiast who often attended National Rose Society Shows and was Patron of the Society for 37 years (1888-1925). Seven roses were named for this great rosarian and **The Queen Alexandra Rose** sported a climber twice, in 1929 and 1931 – one of which was discovered by Harkness. The first rose to be named for this Princess Alexandra was **Princess of Wales** in 1864, soon after her marriage. Two others of the same name in 1871 and 1882 – how confusing that must have been! In 1900 **The Alexandra** – described as a rosy buff tea rose. Unfortunately there appears to be no record of these roses.

**Queen Alexandra** (1901) was described as a rosy pink rambler of insignificant flowers hardly bigger than a bumble bee, but bearing enormous bouquets of flowers and it was awarded the National Rose Society Gold Medal and was named to honour her as the new sovereign, Queen Alexandra.

**Queen Alexandra** (Pemberton 1915) is a Pemberton rose and is described as pale yellow flushed with light salmon, and Pemberton claims it was named by Her Majesty's gracious permission, and retailed at 2/6d.

**The Queen Alexandra Rose** (McGredy – 1918) is a McGredy rose, and won a first prize for a basket of blooms exhibited by Sam McGredy & Son at the Norwich Show in July 1919. Samuel McGredy and sons at the time said “Nothing finer has ever been issued” and described the variety as follows:

A startlingly brilliant flower of intense vermillion colour, deeply shaded old gold on reverse of petals, which spring from a pure orange base. The most sensational as well as the most remarkable colour combination known in roses. The blooms are quite full and of fine form and when half open are bewildering in their beauty. It develops into a large flower when its colour attractiveness in a rose garden is beyond description. Its habit of growth is that of a perfect bedding rose, branching and uniform, with extraordinary deep, glossy green, practically mildew proof foliage. A true perpetual bloomer with a delightfully sweet perfume. This rose, by special request, has been named after our beloved Queen Alexandra, and to distinguish it from all other roses bearing the name of Queen Alexandra it has been named **The Queen Alexandra Rose** – price 21/- each.

Pemberton's rose for Her Majesty only 3 years earlier was only 2/6!! Sam IV claims this rose is a grandparent of **Peace** on both sides.

George V was the second child of Edward and Alexandra and he had two roses named after him: **King George V** and **Duke of Normandy**. George married Princess Mary of Teck (1867-1953), a lover of roses and, as Patron of the National Rose Society for nearly 30 years (1925-1953), a regular visitor to the Great Summer Show in London. Queen Mary died in 1953 but is still remembered for her habit of taking away any basket of roses she admired at the Society's Rose shows. While the growers did not mind the loss of the flowers too much, their precious show baskets disappeared, never to be seen again! Seven roses were named for Mary all with different titles, from Princess to Duchess to Queen, **Jersey Queen** and **Empire Queen** and even **Princess May**. At least breeders were no longer repeating the same name.

Other roses named for Mary were **Duchess of York** (Cocker 1897), and **Queen Mary** (Dickson 1913), described as yellow flushed cerise.

Her lasting memorial is The Queen Mary Rose Garden in London's Regent's Park – an absolute must for all rosarians, especially in mid June when the roses and particularly the rose garlands are at their best.

In Queen Mary's rose garden is a large bed of Mountbatten (HARmantelle 1982). Peter Harkness suggested this name for the mimosa yellow Floribunda in memory of Earl Mountbatten of Burma in 1982. It was the first UK Rose of the Year (1982) and winner of many prizes in international trials, including Golden Rose at The Hague and three other Gold Medals. It is sold in aid of The Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association of which Mountbatten had been President for 25 years.

Lord Louis Mountbatten (1900-1979), a great grandson of Queen Victoria, Admiral, Supreme Allied Commander SE Asia 1943-1945, Viceroy of India 1946-47, created Earl Mountbatten of Burma 1947, and as we know, tragically killed by an IRA bomb in 1979. Jack Harkness eagerly supported Peter's naming of this rose for 'Lord Louis' as he was affectionately known in the Fourteenth Army. Jack recorded how his unit in the 'Forgotten' Fourteenth Army had walked by night 100 miles or so from Chittagong to Arakan, when as he says, "To us there came a tall leader, splendid in his white uniform, able to tell us how to defeat the enemy, and to put into effect the necessary measures."

In Lady Diana Spencer's wedding bouquet there were a number of yellow **Mountbatten** roses in the centre. The Worshipful Company of Gardeners has the privilege of presenting the Royal family with bouquets of flowers on all important occasions – weddings, state occasions, etc., and as such they made the bouquet for Lady Diana Spencer to her design. It was 4 ft from end to end and at her special request included **Mountbatten** roses, presumably for Prince Charles, who held his Uncle in great esteem. Two bouquets were made, one for the service and the second for the photographs, each taking five florists four hours to make!

Edward VIII (1894-1972) – the eldest child of George V and Mary – had a rose named for him when he was Prince of Wales and again later in 1969 by which time he had abdicated and was the Duke of Windsor or **Duc de Windsor** (Tantau 1969), known as **Hersog von Windsor**. This rose is described as having fluorescent orange flowers and is known to be very thorny or rather prickly! However, like the Duke himself, the rose was very popular in Germany. The rose was awarded the RNRS Edland Medal and Certificate of Merit (1968).

Edward married Wallis Simpson in 1937 and she became the Duchess of Windsor, and a rose was named for her in her 'royal' name. It is a sport of **Else Poulsen** and introduced by Jackson and Perkins in 1935. The **Duchess of Windsor** is also known as **Mevrouw van Straaten van Nes** and in some Countries, like South Africa, **Permanent Wave**. Could it have been inspired by her permanently waved hairstyle?

George and Mary's, third child was Mary (1897-1965), and fortunately, another Royal who was a rose lover and Patron of the National Rose Society from 1953-1965. The *Princess Mary Walk* in the old Chiswell Green garden was named for her and was constructed between 1961 and 1963 when the original garden was built. Two roses were named in honour of this great rose lady, including **Princess Mary** (1915), a crimson scarlet rose awarded the 1914 NRS Gold Medal.

Henry, Duke of Gloucester (1900-1974) had a rose named **Prince Henry** in 1926, and in 1935 he married Lady Alice Montagu-Douglas-Scott (1901-2004) to be known as Princess Alice. HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester was the present Queen's aunt by marriage and she holds the record for longevity in the

Royal Family, having lived to be 102, thus beating the Queen Mother's previous record.

The naming of a rose for HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester came about in a strange way. She was President of Princess Helena College and in 1980, the College, knowing her love of gardening, asked if Harkness could provide a special rose for them to present to her on a forthcoming visit. Peter Harkness suggested one of Jack Harkness' PERSICA hybrids, code named **Q6**. To their knowledge it was the only successful cross ever obtained between a Rugosa hybrid and **Rosa persica**. The Princess would then be the owner of a unique item of rare botanical interest. That was in 1980, and the Winter of 1981/82 was exceptionally severe with over 20 degrees of frost. Among the losses were all the Harkness precious **Q6**, which froze solid in their soil blocks within their pots. Brooding over this, Peter Harkness suddenly remembered their gift to the Princess eighteen months previously. Had her plant survived? He wrote to her. Did she recall her visit to the College? Had she still got **Q6** in her garden? If so, might they recover a few precious budding eyes? Back came the answers, yes, yes, and yes – coupled with an invitation to visit her home at Barnwell and help themselves to budwood – Peter says it was a memorable visit on a lovely summer's day.

In 1985 the College was to celebrate its Golden Jubilee and Peter Harkness suggested it would be appropriate to mark the event by naming a rose for Princess Alice, to reflect their personal gratitude for her kind assistance. The College applied for permission and a letter came from Kensington Palace -

*the guidance we have received enables Princess Alice to agree to the suggestion that a new golden yellow Floribunda rose should be named after Her Royal Highness. It is, however, very important that her name should NOT be exploited and we are pleased to know that it is your special wish that this should be so.*

The rose was introduced at Chelsea nine weeks later and by prior arrangement HRH came to receive a basket from Philip Harkness, whose turn it was to be on duty. In November after receiving plants at Barnwell the Lady-in-Waiting wrote:

*...no gift could have given her more pleasure. There is also the enormous enjoyment Princess Alice will get in the summer, from cutting and arranging the flowers – absolutely all the many vases of flowers at Barnwell are done by Her Royal Highness – and being able to bring them up to Kensington Palace. So as you see, Princess Alice is truly delighted with your most generous present and asks me to let you know how touched she is by your kindness.'*

**Princess Alice** – this beautiful Gold Award (Dublin) winning, canary yellow Harkness Floribunda is the progeny of **Judy Garland** and **Anne Harkness**. The name **Princess Alice** is not used in the USA, where they preferred **Brite Lights**, nor in New Zealand, where it is called the **Zonta Rose**.

George and Mary's fifth child, George, Duke of Kent married Marina of Greece and Denmark and she became Princess Marina and the rose named for her of the same name **Princess Marina**, received the NRS Certificate of merit in 1936.

George and Marina's son, Edward, Duke of Kent married Katherine Worsley in 1961 and a bright red Floribunda was named **Katherine Worsley** a year later. She was a keen rose lover and so in 1968 it was fortuitous that **Katherine Worsley** sported a pink rose, discovered by the original breeder Waterhouse in 1968 and they named it **Duchess of Kent**.

Then came **Princess Alexandra of Kent** (AUSmerchant 2007) – a double pink Austin rose which was launched at the Chelsea Flower show in May 2007.

The third child in this Royal family is HRH Prince Michael of Kent and he married Baroness Marie-Christine von Reibnitz in 1978 – another keen rose lover. In 1981 the house of Harkness was asked to name a rose **Princess Michael of Kent** (HARightly) on the occasion of her opening the Lakeland Rose Show (1979). Harkness thought their canary yellow Floribunda, with a certificate of Merit in the RNRS trials, would fit the bill. As it was being budded for 1981 introduction they did not have many flowers available for 1979, just sufficient for a basket for her and a bowl on the exhibition. As it was not yet on sale it was shown under its seedling code L105A, which gave rise to her amused comment "I've never seen myself as a number before". According to Philip Harkness she performed her role delightfully and after dinner joined him in a dance wearing her rose in her hair. She thoughtfully visits the Harkness stand at Chelsea each year so they make a point of having her rose on display.

Peter Harkness tells me the registration of the name caused some amusement. The International Registration Authority for Roses said the name was not acceptable as it had four words, three being the maximum the rules allow. Then they had second thoughts and accepted it, deeming 'of Kent' to be one word! Some of you will remember Peter's talk on naming roses in Glasgow in 2003 when he mentioned this very name. The next problem was with the Swiss registrar, who wanted a letter from the Princess giving consent for the use of her name. Princess Michael promptly complied, but the registrar did not accept it, because he refused to believe that the name she uses when she signs – Marie Christine – was actually her. Time was short and Peter had to make a phone call to Kensington Palace, and then obtain an affidavit from her solicitors to confirm that yes, Marie Christine was the same person as HRH Princess Michael of Kent.

George VI (1895-1952), who as you know was NOT Prince of Wales, but Duke of York and the rose named in his honour, **Duke of York**, was before he was crowned King in 1937. In 1923 George married Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon (1900-2002) which made her the Duchess of York and the first rose to be named in her honour in 1925 was a Dickson rose, described by

some as golden yellow with a tangerine centre. **Elizabeth of York** was raised in Scotland by Dobbie (1928). It received the RNRS certificate of merit in 1927. In 1937 Letts named a rose **Elizabeth**, presumed to be timed for the Coronation.

**The Queen Mother**, was originally named **August Seebauer** in 1944. A problem arose in 1951, when the fine pink floribunda **August Seebauer**, raised by Kordes and introduced in Germany in 1944, won an award in the Society's trials. The agents for Kordes, Henry Morse & Sons of Norfolk, planned to introduce it as 'The Queen Mother'. The Society persuaded them not to, on the grounds that using a royal title as a second choice for an existing rose was not appropriate. Later in the 1950's, during a tour of the Sandringham Show by the Queen Mother, she approached an exhibit staged by Stedman's Roses of Peterborough. They showed her a newly discovered sport of **Nymph**, and asked if they could call it 'The Queen Mother'. The rose was duly introduced under that name in 1959. The National Rose Society could do nothing about this, but felt it was too direct an approach.

As a result, the RNRS in consultation with civil servants in the Home Office developed a policy to cope with the issue. In future, whenever a British raiser wished to name a rose for a member of Britain's royal family, the Society would be required to give its blessing – and agree to the registration of the name – only if a successful application had been made by the breeder to the Home Office and only if the variety had won an award in its Trials at St Albans. This ruled out direct approaches to royal family members, and went some way towards ensuring that only a good rose would be involved. Hence the formalities Peter Harkness had to follow for **Princess Alice** in 1981.

Sam McGredy got through the red tape successfully with **Elizabeth of Glamis** (1965). This had won the President's International Trophy, Clay Cup for Fragrance and winner in the 1963 trials, and in 1964 Sam was known to say that H.M. Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother had graciously given her permission for this lovely rose to bear her name.

Others found the going harder, not least because the mandarins at the Home Office operated at a slow pace and were oblivious to breeders' and growers' needs in respect of planning and propagating dates for introduction.

**Elizabeth of Glamis** was named after Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, whose ancestral home was Glamis Castle in Scotland. In some places it is known as **Irish Beauty**. The Queen Mother is said to have worn the orange salmon colouring of this rose from head to toe when the WFRS convention delegates were presented to her in 1968 at their inaugural meeting. However, it is rumoured she never liked this rose on account of the colour!

The Queen Mother agreed to become the Royal Patron of The Royal National Rose Society in 1965, the year in which her daughter, Queen Elizabeth II graciously conferred the Royal Title on The National Rose Society.

**Queen Mother** (KORquemu). This Kordes rose, raised in 1991, received the Royal National Rose Societies Trial Ground Certificate (1992) and the Royal Horticultural Society award of Garden Merit (1994). This patio shrub is a low growing rose, so in my garden I planted her at the feet of **Lady Di** and that indomitable, indestructible woman, to my dismay died. In fact I planted two and they both died! She is now growing very happily at the feet of her daughter, **Queen Elizabeth**. The **Queen Mother**, sometimes abbreviated to Queen Mum, of which she did not approve, was named to honour the Queen Mother for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Her Majesty, the Queen Mother's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday was a very special occasion when all 151 organisations for which she was Patron took part in a specially orchestrated 90<sup>th</sup> birthday Tribute on Horse Guards Parade. Jill Bennell, Billie Crook, and Dick Balfour represented the RNRS. Jill drove her little red car on top of which was a crown of roses almost as big as the car, following Dick, looking splendid in his morning coat and top hat, carrying a trug of magnificent roses from his own garden. What a proud occasion that must have been.

The Queen Mother was especially interested in roses, and there are many stories of her depth of knowledge of this queen of flowers. She often attended rose shows and was Patron of the RNRS for 37 years until her death. *The Queen Mother Rose Garden*, opened in 1989, was a popular feature at Chiswell Green, but with redevelopment is no longer there. She loved to visit the Cocker nursery in Aberdeen and enjoyed visits from them, sometimes by helicopter. The World Rose Convention held in Toronto in 1985 was privileged and honoured to receive a personal message of good wishes from the much loved and admired lover of roses.

The rose, **Glamis Castle** (AUSTlevel 1992) was named for the Scots seat of the Bowes-Lyon family, where Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother spent some of her childhood and where Princess Margaret was born.

**Clarence House** was named to celebrate the Queen Mother's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and was presented to her by Peter Beales roses at the Sandringham Show.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2000 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and once again the RNRS paid homage to this exceptional rosarian in the Centenary Parade at Whitehall. Dick Balfour once again with a basket of roses from his garden and roses decorating his top hat joined Ken Grapes and Colin Horner in full morning dress rode in a van decorated with a crown of roses, and Ken Grapes had a million rose petals to throw from their float.

**Royal Smile** is a Peter Beales rose named in honour of the Queen Mother. The name was chosen after a competition on local television. (1980)

**Princess Margaret of England** (MEILLisia 1968) and **Princess Margaret Rose** (Tantau 1933) are two roses named for HRS Princess Margaret.

**Queen Elizabeth II** – we all know that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth does not take after her Mother, Grandmother, or Great Grandmother with regard to gardening and roses. She herself said recently at Kew that she didn't have green fingers. If a rose was named for one of her horses this might appeal to her more! In 1956 I attended Ascot (oh dear, that date rather gives away my age!) and knowing nothing about horses, when I saw that a horse by the name of Floribunda was running I backed it and lo and behold it came racing in!!

**Lilibet and the Princess Elizabeth** roses were named for the Queen before she came to the throne, and are no longer to be found. The latter was a sport of **The Queen Alexandra Rose** and was discovered by Wheatcroft in 1927, and he kept it in the Royal family.

Princess Elizabeth married Philip Mountbatten in 1947, and in 1959 Leenders raised a bright red Grandiflora which was named **Prince Philip**.

**The Queen Elizabeth Rose**, a rose pink Grandiflora, was raised by Lammerts in 1954. It was awarded the National Rose Society President's International Trophy and named for the Queen's accession to the throne in 1952. **The Queen Elizabeth Rose** is yet another Royal rose to be seen in *Queen Mary's Rose Garden* in Regent's Park. This same rose was the world's favourite rose for the Hall of Fame in 1979 and the painting presented to Lammerts is Lottie Gunthart's well known *The Queen Elizabeth Rose*.

There are many paintings of this very popular rose – another is Anne Marie Treschlin's painting.

**The Queen Elizabeth Rose** also comes as a climber and a very strong and vigorous one – **Climbing Queen Elizabeth Rose** (1957).

Several colour sports have been introduced over the years – **Yellow Queen Elizabeth** in 1964, **Shell Queen** in 1961, **Pearly Queen** in 1963, **Royal Queen** in 1965, **White Queen Elizabeth** in 1965, (**Blanc Queen Elizabeth**), **Ivory Queen** in 1965, **Flamingo Queen** in 1972 and **Blushing Queen** in 1976.

**Scarlet Queen Elizabeth**, a seedling of **Queen Elizabeth** was produced by Dickson in 1976.

**Royal Highness** (1962) is a Swim & Weeks rose.

Alec Cocker, of James Cocker & Sons, bred and named **Silver Jubilee** (1978) in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's Silver Jubilee year in 1977. In that year it won the President's International Trophy and a Gold Medal in the Royal National Rose Society's Trials. It is claimed in rose catalogues to be one of the great roses of this century – Alec Cocker's masterpiece.

**Royal Salute** is a McGredy rose also bred for the Silver Jubilee in 1977

The late Dick Balfour loved to tell the story of the Queen Mother whom he considered a personal friend. Dick and Della were members of The Friends of St Paul's Cathedral of which the Queen Mother was the Royal Patron and at the annual service which the Queen Mother attended, Dick always presented her with a posy of flowers from his garden and one year he

included Alec Cocker's **Silver Jubilee** and when she accepted the posy, she said "Wasn't it sad that [Alec] died, and isn't it wonderful that his widow has kept the business going" – what an example of her great knowledge of roses.

During her visit to Chelsea by the Queen in 1990, Peter Harkness presented Her Majesty The Queen with a basket of the cut flower variety – **By Appointment** (HARvolute 1989) the rose which was named to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Royal Warrant Association.

More roses named for HM the Queen –

- **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**
- **Jubilee Celebration** – 2002
- **Golden Jubilee**

The Queen was presented with a new variety of rose to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Botanical Garden at the beginning of May. Although not a Royal rose it has Royal connections – **Kew Gardens** is an English Musk hybrid and it is entirely without thorns. (Austin)

Elizabeth and Philip's first born child is: Charles married Lady Diana Spencer (1961-1997) in 1981 and in 1982 Huber raised a HT to be called **Lady Di**. In the same year Hoy named a rose **Lady Di**, which looks very like her Mother-in-law – very confusing. Four years later Hoy raised **Lady Diana**, also a light pink HT.

**People's Princess** (SUNtick) is yet another light pink HT (raised by Schuurman in 1995.) In New Zealand it is called **Tickled Pink**.

**The Princess of Wales** (HARDinkum), was introduced in England (1997) by crossing **Sexy Rexy** with **Many Happy Returns** (Sam McGredy's best friend and British Rail!). This rose is the only one personally selected by the Princess to bear her name, and was named and presented to Princess Diana in honour of her ten years of work with the British Lung Foundation and sold in aid of this charity, of which she was Patron.

On 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1997 Peter Harkness switched on the bedside radio in the small hours and heard the announcement that Princess Diana had died in a car crash in Paris. In the rose field later that day he looked at the rows of plants, so absolutely stunning in their full second blooming. Later they were asked for blooms to decorate Westminster Abbey and some 7,000 blooms were subsequently cut for use in the flower arrangements on the occasion of her funeral. They were also used for Prince Harry's wreath and on Diana's coffin.

Peter Harkness sought permission to name a seedling codenamed 'Harroony' after the Princess of Wales. This variety was impressive in every trial it entered, and had the requisite RNRS award. It had more over been voted by growers to be introduced as Rose of the Year in 1984. Having heard nothing from the Home Office for several weeks, he wrote again, to be told apologetically that they had lost track of the application papers. By this time it was too late to start the process again, but he understood from another source that

because of Princess Diana's high profile the officials were reluctant to commit themselves when any commercial item was involved. The rose went on to win an All-America Rose Selection, a James Mason Medal and a score of other awards as **Amber Queen**.

Some other roses named for Diana are:

- **Diana** (Tantau 1997), a cut rose
- **Diana, Princess of Wales**, also called **Elegant Lady**, was unveiled at a ceremonial planting at the British Embassy in Washington DC in 1998. Developed by Keith Zary of Jackson & Perkins, and a percentage of the proceeds is donated to the Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. A stamp was issued in America depicting the rose.
- **Diana, Princess of Wales**, another by the same name, but not to be confused with the previous rose by the same name.
- **England's Rose** (AUSrace 2000) was changed to **Ludlow Castle**.
- **Princess of Wales**
- **Lady Diana**
- **Candle in the Wind**

A number of roses were introduced in 2002 as part of the Royal Collection of roses. Among the many were:

- **Crowning Glory** – DICystick (2001 Dickson) Named by Ken Grapes, Sec. of the RNRS at the time, for the doomed Royal Collection.
- **Forever Royal** – 2001
- **Her Majesty** – DICxotic (2001 Dickson)
- **Newly Wed** – 2002 - DIDwhynot

and many others but the project didn't ever develop any further.

Anne (1950-), second child of Elizabeth and Philip was designated **Princess Royal** (DICroyal) in 1987 and in 1992 the Princess chose her own rose in her capacity as Patron of Riding for the disabled who benefited from sales at the time. In 2003 HRH Princess Anne, the Princess Royal officially opened the WFRS convention which was held in Glasgow. The Princess Royal has shown no interest in gardening, let alone roses, and at the opening she said she didn't know why she had been invited to open the Rose Convention as she didn't even know if she had a rose in her garden! However, she presumed she had been asked on account of the keenness of her Aunt, Princess Alice and her Grandmother, The Queen Mother. A young boy presented the Princess Royal with a bouquet of this Royal rose and Princess Anne asked if he knew the name of the rose, but unexpectedly he didn't! To my great joy and honour as the South African representative at the Convention I was presented to her and as she had just returned from South Africa we were able to have a conversation, not having to rely on roses!

The third child in the family was Andrew (1960-), later Duke of York and as we all know he married Sarah Ferguson (1959-) in 1986 and in 1987 Douglas Gandy named an orange buff and ginger colour Floribunda rose **Fergie** (GANfer). Permission is required to name a rose for a member of the Royal family and Douglas did not have the required permission and if anyone

queried it, he would smile and say he had named it for his old and much loved Ferguson tractor!

In 1992 Dickson named an orange red with yellow rose, **Duchess of York** (DICracer). The was later changed to **Sunseeker** but still benefits the Motor Neurone Disease Association whose Patron the Duchess was.

**The Duchess of Cornwall** rose was named for her as President of the National Osteoporosis Society for them to raise funds for the society. The Duchess of Cornwall is a strong supporter of the NOS. The rose was launched at the 2005 Gardeners World Life Show at the NEC in Birmingham and was opened by HRH The Duchess of Cornwall and HRH Prince Charles, in June 2005. Several plants were planted at Highgrove. Like the Duchess herself, the rose is gradually gaining in popularity.

Then came Edward (1964-) who married Sophie Rhys-Jones (1965-) and they became Earl of Wessex and Countess of Wessex – and the rose named for her is **Countess of Wessex** (BEAcream). This white shrub rose was raised by Amanda Beales in 2005.

**Highgrove Rose** – named for Prince Charles garden. It was launched at Chelsea in 2009.

**Royal William** – 1987 is named for the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of William I, BUT it is also the year that our most recent Royal William started school. As this rose was raised and named in 1987 there is an understandable public assumption that the rose was linked to the Prince!

We three Kings from history are  
Naming a rose that will be a star.  
Royal Williams we, one, two and four –  
Isn't it splendid one day there'll be more?

Which will be the next Royal rose? Could it be KATE?

# Roses on the move – a lecture given at Vancouver, 2009

by Helga Brichet, Perugia, Italy

Good morning, rose friends. Firstly I should like to thank the organizers of this World Rose Convention, the hosting rose societies and most particularly the Convenors, Brenda and Darlene, for a delightful week in their beautiful city.

What I should like to do today is to trace the journeys of some of the most important species, which form the genetic basis of the modern rose.

Plants, and roses in particular, have forever been on the move, notably with the aid of the elements, such as wind and water, but also insects, animals and birds, in order to reproduce and multiply themselves in environments to their liking, within the limits geography and climate confine their possibilities.

It is difficult to appreciate that the first recorded plant-hunting expedition took place when Athens, Rome, Paris and London were not yet existent. Mounted by Queen Hatshepsut in order to bring back to Egypt the tree (*Boswellia*), which produces the gum named Frankincense from the east coast of Africa. 31 trees were successfully established at Karnak and an official record carved on the walls.



Queen Hatshepsut and *Boswellia*,

It was from the mouths of the Tigris and the Euphrates as well as Egypt that western civilizations drew their origins and their love of plants. Early the Rose's greatest asset was seen to be its prickles, and had been used for thick fences and impenetrable boundaries.

And it was inevitable that they soon be planted within garden boundaries and their medicinal, culinary and

decorative characteristics be appreciated. Rose blooms were so desirable in Roman times that they were brought from Egypt by the shipload in winter. Merchants trading in silks and spices along ancient caravan routes between Europe, the Middle East and Asia included certain plants, aromatic, or fragrant or medicinal or simply decorative.

Roses also followed in the wake of military and religious operations – an example of which is the Muslim conquest of the North African coastline and part of Spain, while in the 16<sup>th</sup> century India was conquered by the Muslim Mughal Emperors from Persia and Afghanistan, and used roses extensively in their gardens, which represented the Islamic vision of paradise. Babur, the first Mughal Emperor, is said to have brought the Damask rose to India. However India and China had centuries before begun trading across their communal border, following the introduction of Buddhism to China. And roses were very much a part of the social, medical, cultural and religious fabric.

In Europe too, during the Medieval Era medicinal plants were passed from convent to convent, however it was the eternal contact between the eastern trading routes and such rich trading cities as Venice, which brought further "foreign" roses to the attention of Europe. Latin was the language of the educated and the Dutchman, Charles d'Ecluse, naming himself Clusius, obtained the *Rosa foetida* (**Austrian Briar**) in Turkey and introduced it to Holland and England around 1600. This was followed by its mutation the *R. foetida bicolor*, used by McGredy in 1918 to produce the **Queen Alexandra Rose**, a grandparent of **Peace**, and then the *R. foetida Persiana*. This is the rose that was much later to introduce the colour yellow (Pernetiana roses, the first of which was **Soleil d'Or** by J. Pernet Ducher) and all its subsequent variations to the modern rose, as we know it today.



*Rosa foetida bicolor*, photographed in the Timaru Species Rose Garden, New Zealand.

To this day the *R. persica* intrigues breeders with its chestnut blotches. It was introduced to France from Iran in 1788, and soon after to England by Sir Joseph Banks in 1790. It was painted by Redouté as *R. berberifolia*. We might indeed ask ourselves whether this is a rose? Jack Harkness produced a number of cultivars, **Tigris** and **Euphrates** among them, some twenty years ago. More recently, Ralph Moore has produced some splendid novelties, and this year, at the rose trials in The Hague, there are some new entries with *R. persica* to be seen.



**Euphrates**

Other wild roses from the Middle East were, for example, the *R. ecae*, in 1880, named by its introducer, Dr. James Aitchison, after his wife, and *R. primula*, the **Incense Rose**, found by the American R.N. Meyer in 1910 near Samarkand.

Botanical names of new plants generally followed the rule of:

- 1) indicating a characteristic of the plant, or
- 2) indicating its place of origin, or
- 3) honouring an individual in the scientific world.

There were exceptions! For example, the *Victoria rex*, the giant Amazonian water lily, which still horrifies the Brazilians!

However it was the discovery of the ocean routes that opened the eyes of Westerners to new and unexplored and exciting worlds. New plants started arriving from northern America, and among them a number of roses, which were depicted by Redouté. The most important of these, from a future breeding point of view, was the *R. setigera*, discovered by André Michaux, the only rose from that continent which shows an inclination to climb. Thus we have **Baltimore Belle** (Feast, 1843), **Himmelsauge**, (Geschwind, 1895) and **Long John Silver**, (Horwath, 1934 – who named a whole series of Hybrid Setigera roses after the characters in *Treasure Island*.)

The Portuguese at last opened the long sea route via the Cape of Storms – a fitting name if ever there was one – later the Cape of Good Hope. They arrived in southern China in 1516. And it is curious that they never produced a botanist during the whole period of their Eastern Empire. They were followed by the Dutch and

then the English, who opened a trading station in Canton in 1699 and also in nearby Macao in 1710.

As a rule, scientific exploration throughout the world was far removed from political or commercial influence. Frequently botanical collectors were the first pioneers in parts of the world untrdden by Europeans.

However China had resisted all efforts at penetration for centuries. This is the outstanding case where scientific research had to follow humbly in the footsteps of political and commercial treaties. The introduction of plants from China differs from that of all other parts of the globe – for here there is a civilization far older and, in some ways, more advanced than our own. This civilization was also extremely fond of gardens and plants.

It is important to understand the difference between the slow progress of botanical exploration and collection of wild plants, of which nothing was known, as distinct from the introduction into Europe of horticultural flora, developed by the Chinese for use in their own gardens. The latter was at hand in the few treaty ports where restrictions on foreigners, unable to move further than a few miles away or learn the Chinese language, was fierce. Thus for the next 150 years all plants which reached Europe, with few exceptions, were of horticultural origin. This was naturally not grasped at the time in Europe, nor the treasure trove which lay hidden in the unexplored wilds. Nonetheless, quick-eyed and -witted European nurserymen leaped upon these imported rose varieties and crossed them with the existent local ones, most particularly the forms and mutations of the *R. gallica*. From a pale, single flower, *R. gallica* had mutated to become double and red, been given various names, *R. gallica duplex*, *R. gallica officinalis*, *R. gallica conditorum*, and was extensively used by breeders to create new varieties and satisfy the increasing interest in and demand for roses at the époque. Thus, for the first time, the East and the West embraced in the world of roses.

The obstacles which had to be faced by collectors (both professional and amateurs with other primary professions) in this unequalled treasure-house of plants, were the following:

1. The brick wall of Chinese ultra-conservatism,
2. The endurance of innumerable hardships in fierce climates with, very frequently, a reckless disregard for personal safety.
3. The survival of plants and seed transported overland and during the long sea voyages.

The first botanical collector to reside in China for more than a few weeks was William Kerr (d. 1814), sent by the Royal Gardens at Kew in 1803. But he too had to buy his plants at one or other of the nursery gardens at Canton, the biggest of which was named Faté Gardens. In this way, he introduced the *R. banksia banksia*, at first taken in Europe to be the wild rose. *R. banksia normalis* was only found much later.

The Horticultural Society was formed in 1804, and turned its eyes to China. Enough good garden plants, especially camellias, chrysanthemums and azaleas, had been introduced to whet its appetite. John Demper Parks was sent out on their behalf, and it is to him that we owe the *R. banksia lutea* and **Parks' Yellow Tea-scented China**, now lost in the West, and hopefully to be re-introduced soon. A modern example in this group is **Purezza** by the Italian, Mansuino in 1961, a cross between **Tom Thumb** and *R. banksia lutescens*.

The only wild roses introduced at this stage were the *R. bracteata* upon the return of the Embassy led by Lord Macartney to Peking in 1792, (notable for her beautiful offspring **Mermaid**) and the *R. multiflora carnea* by Thomas Evans in 1804, a passionate collector of "exotics," who perhaps well remunerated one of the sea captains who had grasped the advantages of caring for plants on board their ships.

There is also a theory, interestingly enough, that *R. laevigata* was introduced into northern America during the people migration from northern China that commenced some 40,000 years ago during the last ice age. The hips of this rose have a very hard casing, lasting for years when dried, and the descendants of the Peking Man – for which there is evidence that the indigenes of the Americas are too progeny – could have brought them for medicinal purposes. From this rose comes **Anemone** and her sport, **Ramona**.

By the first half of the nineteenth century the importation of horticultural varieties was almost over and all that was possible in the minute portion of the country open to their search had been accomplished. However it is true to say that at this time our knowledge of the earth's flora was still in its infancy. In the meanwhile a veritable passion for all things Chinese – Chinoiseries, as the French called it – had become the fashion in Europe. And naturally also flowers: Azaleas, Chrysanthemums, Camellias and Rhododendrons, in all their colours and forms, became the rage. Peonies naturally caused a sensation!

The Treaty of Nanking in 1842, which ended the Opium War between China and England, gave European access to Hongkong and four additional ports, including Shanghai. Controls also slackened, and movement up to around 50 miles from the trading posts became possible. The Horticultural Society immediately formed a Chinese Committee to prepare the way for a collector. The choice fell on Robert Fortune, one of the greatest of all plant collectors in the Far East. Included in his letter of instructions, were a number of plants about which he was to enquire: No. 4 read "The double yellow roses of which 2 sorts are said to occur in Chinese gardens, exclusive of the Banksian." Altogether Fortune made four trips to China, also working for the East India Company with the object of the introduction of China Tea into India. In this he was eminently successful. It was however during his first expedition that he was particularly lucky, for he was able to find both **Fortune's Double Yellow** and **Fortune's Five-coloured China** in gardens near Nipoo. The latter is rare indeed! The *R. fortuneana* honours his name.

The war of 1860 between Britain, France and the Chinese had extremely petty causes. The results, however, were indeed far-reaching.

Following the peace treaty signed in 1860 a third set of ports were opened, including some on the Yangtze River. More important, subjects of the treaty powers were allowed to travel in the interior of China, and missionaries allowed to work where they liked. This gave them a passport to the scientific exploration of the whole Chinese Empire.

Europeans of all types and trades were drawn to the East, like moths to a candle's flame. The famous nursery of James Veitch and Sons sent their collectors to both China and Japan. By coincidence, Japan too opened its doors to foreigners in 1860, for the first time since 1636!

The Irish-born Dr. Augustine Henry was, by his own admission, a very bored customs officer stationed at Ichang from 1882, the most distant open port along the Yangtze. Thanks to him, the vast field of botanical explorations remaining to be discovered in western China began to be perceived. Henry was only interested in herbarium material, and many of his finest discoveries were later introduced by Wilson. He was also the first to detect the *R. chinensis spontanea* in 1885 of which we shall speak later. The beautiful *R. henryi* is a rare treasure and deserves to be better known and used in gardens.

French missionaries were particularly successful in discovering roses during this period and collecting herbarium material. Some of them belonged to the Society of Foreign Missions, founded during the seventeenth century in Paris. Pere Jean Marie Delavay arrived in Yunnan in 1881 and was to stay for 14 years, collecting more than 3,200 plants and shipping them all to France. Among his "finds," there was also the spectacular, and uniquely four-petaled *R. omeiensis* or *sericea 'pteracantha'* in 1884 on the famous Omei-shan, one of the three most holy Buddhist mountains in China. Around 1950 this species was used to give us the even more spectacular **Red Wing**.

Pere Paul Guillaume Farges spent 54 years of his life evangelising in Sichuan and sent numerous plants to the museum in Paris. *R. fargesii* was introduced into Europe by the nursery firm of Veitch in 1913.

Pere Jean Soulie was sent to eastern Tibet from whence he dispatched numerous collections to the Museum in Paris. The Belgian botanist Crépin dedicated the *R. souliéana* to this courageous missionary, who suffered an atrocious death in 1885.

The Lazarist Congregation too played a prominent role in evangelisation in China. Pere Armand David was sent to China in 1862. He was at home in every branch of natural science, and the first botanical collector to specialize in one district. He undertook three trips to China, and during the second he set up camp in a seminary at Mouping (Boaxing), where he found a very large number of first class garden plants, including the beautiful "handkerchief tree", *Davidia involucrata* and also the *R. davidi* in 1908, described by Crépin, honouring his name. This species is an ancestor of

**Baby Love** (1992), by the amateur breeder, Len Scrivens. David was in fact the first European to see the Panda.

Here I should like to show you a few photos of our visit the seminary where David stayed, which we visited in 2001. The track leading upwards is extremely steep and ends at the large, wooden Christian mission house. There is a beautiful, rectangular, inner garden courtyard, containing tree peonies and the ancient Rugosa hybrid, **Maikwai**. This rose has appeared in a twelfth century Chinese painting. Nearby there are numerous *Pauwlonia tormentosa* in bloom, their soft wisteria-shaded blooms drifting to the ground, and some ancient *Davidia*.

To most collectors before 1900 collecting was only a by-product of their activities, either missionary or government service. This was the case not only in China, but also in nearby India and bordering Burma. In 1882 Sir George Watt, Surveyor General of India discovered one of the forms of the **R. gigantea** in the northeastern state of Manipur. Six years later Sir Henry Collett, looking through his field glasses in the Shan Hills in Burma, noticed festoons of flowers, up to 14cms, resembling magnolias.

( “*Flying Colours*,” “*Belle Portugaise*,” “*Mrs. Richard Turnbull*,” “*Amber Cloud*,” “*Belle Blanche*” – a general view of the group – and the “*Li Jiang Road Climber*.”)

With the arrival of Ernest Henry Wilson, we enter into the era of the professional collector of whom the masters were:

- 1 botanical institutions, desiring herbarium material; and,
- 2 nurseries and gardeners keen on good, new plants.

Wilson first worked for James Veitch and Sons, and on his later voyages to the East for the Arnold Arboretum in the US. He probably introduced more first class ligneous plants than any other collector and also did much to popularise gardening by his writing.

To Wilson we owe a total of 22 roses: they include **R. heleneae**, **R. murielae**, dedicated to his wife and daughter; **R. willmottiae**; **R. moyesii**, which was to give us a number of beautiful varieties, **Geranium** and **Rosea**, but also Pedro Dot's **Nevada**, and the beauty of their hips in the winter garden; **R. filipes**, the much prized **Kiftsgate**; and **R. sinowilsonii**, named to commemorate his great work, from which we have **Wedding Day**. Both Wilson and his wife died tragically in the US in 1930.

New methods of financing elaborate botanical expeditions became necessary and thus syndicates of various sizes were formed to bear the burden of an époque that craved oriental plants and glorified, in particular, the genus Rhododendron. Great collectors such as George Forrest and Kingdon Ward, but also Reginald Farrer appeared on the scene. Farrer, who found the **Three Penny-Bit Rose** (**R. farreri**) in northern China, had, in addition, the greatest influence as a garden writer.

In case you've ever wondered who **Mrs. Herbert Stevens** was, she was, I suspect, a long-suffering wife who thoroughly deserved a rose named after her. In fact, her husband accompanied expeditions of the Roosevelt family to the Orient between the world wars.)

For a long time in the USA the general impression was that the climate of much of the country was against the culture of “exotics” and thus collecting was generally limited to expeditions on behalf of the Agricultural Department, the Arnold Arboretum or the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. Frank Meyer worked for the Agricultural Dept. In search of economic crops, but is also responsible for the introduction of the **R. xanthina**, found in one of the vast, northern agricultural provinces. A popular hybrid is **Canary Bird**. The Belgian breeder Louis Lens more recently has given us **Springtime**. The extravagant Joseph Rock (he insisted on travelling with all his silver cutlery and crystal goblets!) also worked for the Agricultural Department, the Arnold Arboretum and the National Geographic Society. He also mentions the sighting of the famed and elusive **R. chinensis Spontanea**.

The political situation in China became even more unsettled and certainly did not favour the entrance of foreigners to the cities, less still to the wilds. The country remained to all purposes closed to Europeans from the beginning of the Second World War until 1980.

Japan, as previously mentioned, also opened its doors, reluctantly, in 1860 after more than 200 years as an isolated fortress, in peace and prosperity. The Japanese had inherited their knowledge and love of gardens and plants, and indeed much else, from China. However the formal gardens in isolation had gradually become stylized and almost atrophied, amazing and enchanting Europeans, and a rage for Japanoiserie swept Europe as before had done Chinoiserie.

The Dutch East Indian Company for some years held a tenuous foothold on the island of Deshima, from which the Swede, C. P. Thunberg, Linneus' “first disciple,” found the rose named after Dr. Max Wichura, by Crépin, (**R. wichurana**) Modern hybrids are, for



Alexandre Girault,  
photographed in *Jardin des Plantes*, Paris

example, **Sanders' White** and **Alexandre Girault** C.P. Thunberg and Philipp Hans von Siebold, were able, within a very limited and strictly controlled area, to collect plants. Von Siebold had the advantage of being an eye specialist as well as a botanist, so that he received freedom and special privileges to collect, and after his first trip returned to Holland with 458 plants, a booty which undoubtedly stimulated European appetites. John Veitch himself set off for Japan, but found himself reduced to searching through what nurseries and gardens had to offer. Robert Fortune was also restricted to private and temple gardens. Dr. Savatier, stationed at Yokosaka with a group of French advisors to naval constructors, undertook a systematic exploration of the flora and fauna, and between 1867 and 1871 collected more than 15,000 plants. One of these was the *R. luciae*, named after his wife, Lucie. This species was to form the basis of the work of the Frenchman Barbier in Orléans in creating his exuberant rambling varieties around 1900.

Of particular interest is the discovery of one of the numerous forms of the *R. multiflora*, common to Japan, Korea and China, the *R. multiflora Watsoniana*, in a garden of New York by Mr. Edward Rand. It was supposed to have been introduced from Japan and was sent by Mr. Rand to the Arnold Arboretum in 1878.

The influence on local Japanese enthusiasts was very great and Japan began to produce her own expert plant hunters far earlier than China, and they also sent what they found to various botanical gardens in the West. Thus the flora of Japan became systematically ordered and catalogued.

Let us briefly look at the techniques of plant transportation from the Far East during two and a half centuries. Even today, it is still possible to send by airmail a plant in an airtight and rigid plastic container and – trusting that it meets with neither a customs probe or post office neglect – have a reasonable hope it will arrive safe and sound and in time on the other side of the world. This has not always been so, when one considers that collectors generally risked their personal safety and that of their precious plants, to the point of lunacy.

And, considering the long voyage – five months or more before steam replaced sails and oars – back to Europe, with variations in climate and temperature (the equator was crossed twice), seeds would have seemed to be the obvious solution. However this system was however not generally used before 1815 because practically all plants were of a horticultural nature, and so seeds would not “come true.” Many outgoing ships frequently carried fruit trees for presents or barter, and expeditions of any importance included a gardener, whose responsibility it was to nurse the plants. E.g. David Nelson travelled with Captain Cook and founded the Genus *Eucalyptus* in Tasmania, or Van Dieman’s Land as it was then named. The poor man also travelled with Captain Bligh, by whom he was abandoned!

Plants were usually encased in boxes of wooden slats, which were stored in the poop deck of ships, where they were more sheltered and less exposed to salt, but nonetheless to rats. In fine weather the boxes were opened to allow light, air and water to enter. In bad weather the boxes were covered with tarpaulins to keep off the spray, and were the first to be ditched overboard in case of emergency. Another problem was that many of the plants had been forced, so that rich Chinamen could have their gardens in bloom throughout the year. They had also been potted – Chinese plants were always in pots – in heavy, local clay, and so often lacked the stamina to withstand a long sea voyage. The shipping season too had to coincide with the tea crop, which had become the English national beverage.

Occasionally ships were routed to Calcutta, where lucky plants were sometimes left in the Botanical Gardens (founded in 1787) to acclimatize. The first salaried Superintendent was William Roxburgh (*R. roxburghii*), who had one of the newly arrived Chinese horticultural varieties named in his honour. On other occasions ships stopped at St. Helena and plants were mistakenly taken on land, where they started into growth... only to have to face the English climate... and slow customs and dock workers! Indeed another fascinating subject would be to trace the botanical gardens and the islands, which have played such an important role in the worldwide wonderings of the rose.

This system persisted for many years until Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward brought the glazed travelling case, the *Wardian Case* to the peak of perfection in 1834. It allowed the plants light, conserved the condensed water and kept out the salt. At least one side of the watertight, travelling case was glass, and stood on high feet, enabling sailors to wash down the deck underneath. Fortune was a great believer in the Wardian Case: he wanted the plants to be potted in good soil two months before leaving, and insisted that the pots be snugly fixed in the boxes at least ten days before departure and the soil surface covered with moss, to retain moisture. The problem of short-lived seeds was overcome by sowing them just before departure so that they germinated in the Wardian seed boxes during the voyage. In this way Fortune safely introduced over 100,000 young tea plants to India.



Early travelling cases for plants

Parallel to these discoveries, the world was becoming colonialized, and perhaps, civilized. Large parts of the southern hemisphere too were being settled by immigrants, transported in ocean liners and airplanes, in search of a better life. And naturally they brought what was dearest to them from “old Europe”, including roses. In various countries these established themselves so well that they “went native”, becoming feral, and taking over parts of the countryside, as did the *R. laevigata* in the US, the *R. rubiginosa* in South Africa and the *R. canina* in parts of South America. In Chile *Rosa Mosqueta* is the commercial name of products made from the rose hips of various feral roses.

And finally, we must turn our attention to a modern-day plant hunter, Dr. Mikinori Ogisu, the Japanese botanist and collector, who immediately returned to China after its “bamboo curtain” was opened in 1980 to allow foreign plant hunters to return into the wilds. As you know, not all wild roses have influenced the development of the modern rose. There is however, one class of roses which have influenced the history of the rose to this day more than any other, the Indica or China group, for it brought the unique characteristic of continuous blooming – without which it is impossible to imagine modern roses! As mentioned, the *R. chinensis Spontanea* had been spotted as early as 1885 but it was Dr Ogisu, at the instigation of Graham Stuart Thomas, who re-discovered it in 1983 in southwestern China and presented it to the world. Here are some photos of this glorious rose in its natural habitat, and in my garden. HHerewith I should like to pay homage to this extraordinary man, as well as all those which have preceded him, and their dedication to the world of botany and their love of plants.

The nineteenth and twentieth centuries saw the establishment of specialized rose nurseries and professional rose breeders, many of which today form what we could name “dynasties,” well into their fourth and fifth generations, with international branches around the world. To assist them evaluate the possibilities of success in differing conditions, international rose trials, now well established since some 100 years, are staged throughout the five continents. There is hardly a country on earth which does not boast a happy group of rose gardeners and exhibitors – as evidenced by the constantly increasing membership of the WFRS – while public gardens of both modern and historical roses are the attraction and visiting cards of innumerable cities around the globe.

As for some examples of roses on their travels today, rose producers now find it economical to grow blooms for the cut-flower trade in such disparate countries as Columbia, Israel, and Kenya, and air freight them to the wholesale auction centres in Europe, such as Aalsmeer in the Netherlands, from which they are distributed to all the cities of Europe

What will be the next stage in the Rose’s travels? Well, of course, UP, UP AND AWAY! In the search of extraterrestrial Roses!

# Vacunae Rosae – a portrait of a new Roman rose garden

by Gian Paolo Bonani, Italy

## In search of the genii of the place

The designer of *Vacunae Rosae*, a garden located in Sabina, 30 kilometres north of Rome, in a region of great scenic vocation, had to consolidate the poetic vision of the garden peering at the spirit of the place, which links nature to Gods and people.

The *genius loci* (the spirit living in the place) is the dimension which must be necessarily investigated by the planners dealing with fields, landscape, and environment. Contrary to the common belief, it is not made of an external and sensitive aspect. The physical features of the land reveal other dimensions

In the tradition of the ancient Italics the garden is the *locus amoenus* (place of joy), characterized by unity and suavity, which is always inhabited by various unpredictable cosmic forces. The Italian Renaissance, even in the setting of a critical vision, within the garden shows a continual search for the gods hidden in nature.

In this sense, the placement of Vacuna's rose garden appears extraordinary. The *genius loci* of Sabina was born in the *ingens sylva* of the origins, uncultivated and terrible forest, "full of extraordinary vital juices", according to Plinius. Close to the green coast of Cesola, to the side of which the historic housing centre of Roccantica is located, dominated by the summit of Pizzuto Mount, the rose garden can be easily identified as a "sacred inscription" on the edge of the wood. The sacred landscape of Sabina is in fact dominated by the presence of the goddess Vacuna, whose territories were recognized and revered as Vacunae Nemora. Plutarch called her *Tacita* for her "silent, incorruptible and only intelligible" character. From Vacuna, who was used to pronounce her prophecies in silence, the property country club, near which the rosary has been realized, took its name. The nickname *La Tacita* underlines the confidentiality and the pacifying effect of the place. Vacuna is a resident and sedentary Goddess. She is the goddess of fertility and prosperity of Sabina. The name of the garden itself easily came to be *Vacunae Rosae*, The Roses of Vacuna in Latin language.

Thus, even at the beginning of the twenty-first century, the birth of the rose garden next to the meeting centre of *La Tacita* is an intellectual investment. A garden without a house is like a body without a head, wrote a few years ago Russell Page, one of the most important garden creators of the twentieth century. The ancients had warned, a millennium before, that "the king without a garden is not a real king".

## Conceiving the garden

The design of Vacuna's rose garden, located in Roccantica, is designed according to an ambitious construction program. It is within a specific countryside context, set in a territory rich in history and symbolism, where it was thought in the precise belief that the garden, as written by Isabelle Auricoste, a great landscape designer of our times, is "an accurate inscription as a magic drawing, a track of the earthly work on the surface of the globe, which inherits all the tradition of the hand-to-hand contact with the rebel ground to flatter, fertilize and enslave it".

The designer of *Vacunae Rosae* has made available to the project over twenty years of practice in the personal rose garden of Calvi dell'Umbria. Even in that case, the slope of the field, much steeper than Roccantica's one, has been studied and gradually terraced with the "on demand" procedure described by the architect in the following paragraphs. The study of recent realizations of rose gardens, although it was conducted on an international scale, did not give any final guidance to the designer. The *designing with roses* is not usually starting from the building objects that should bear in themselves symbolic and cultural values. The latest reviews on the subject, to be found in essays such as Lord, Dermott and Quest-Ritson's ones, merely describe the intelligent and prestigious placement of roses in great quality gardens and parks, but they do

Gian Paolo Bonani



not give examples of gardens especially "created for roses". The most important European collections of roses as the French Bagatelle and Hay-les-Roses nearby Paris may be mentioned, in the words of Tony Lord, as places that "make full use of the diversity of the rose gender, while offering an architectural structure that corrects the form deficiency (*sic*) of roses".

The hospitality places of large collections of European, North American and Australian roses are designed as containers – sometimes wonderful – of repeated and classified plants in botanical terms, but not as places of cultural significance. They show the rose cultivation more than its culture.

It is no surprise then, that the most inspiring and productive realizations of rose gardens end up being the most intimate ones and linked to the individual experience of the gardeners and/or owners. Yet, these intimate places are in large part gardens with a natural form and visual impact, without any particular investment in a devoted architectural work.

Vacuna's architect has tried to overcome the conflict between architecture and nature by setting the construction in the logic of the "composition". While combining architecture and roses, the designer has a concrete pictorial purpose. The designer draws some lines of force, but he does not arbitrarily constructs. The composition takes into account the architectural structures (manufactured objects, pathways), but in a dynamic (evolutionary) perspective that incorporates light and water flow. The lines are drawn and supported by a philosophical orientation that enhances the symbol.

According to this view roses and plants which have no independent life outside of the garden ground are distributed. The declared dimensions are spiritual, aesthetic, emotional and are incorporated into a technical and descriptive plot that allows the physical construction of the garden.

Russel Page, beloved landscape architect of the last century, encouraged to design the new garden taking into account "all that you can see, the sky and the horizon line".

Vacuna's designer has carefully read the physical geography of the place.

View is the key organ that has guided the choice of the designer in terms of landscape. The "glance" is essential to explain many of the solutions that have been effectively taken with structural results. Glance brings together intuition and technical assessment. The interpretation of a vegetable environment is always an exercise of global integration of the senses. The integral sensorial reading of the landscape gives meaning to the indication suggested by Robert Irwin, that is "to write" the garden on the surface of the ground as it is: "Play it as it lays", he proposes, consequently obtaining some indications on the garden configuration in the landscape.

## The angel wing and the fence

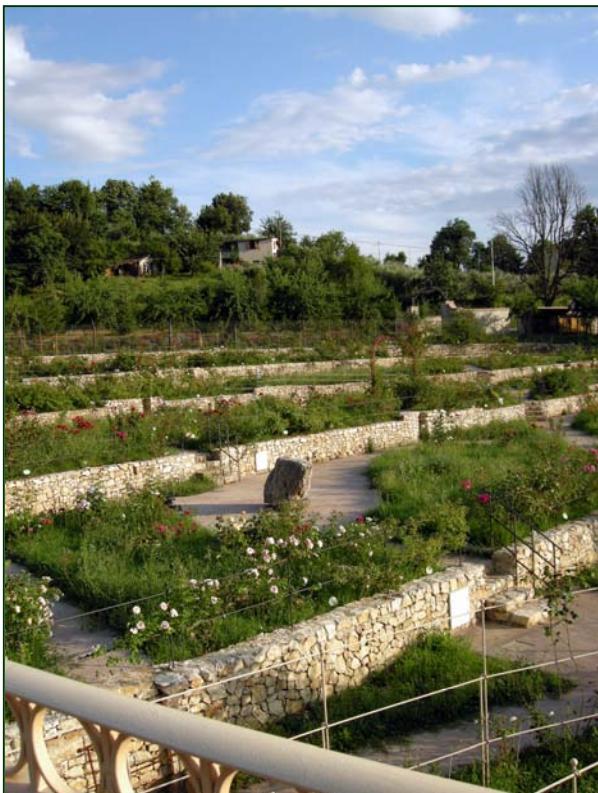
Vacunae Rosae's project started from the reading of the ground. The configuration of the available lot, seen from above, allowed a first intuitive design of an almond-shaped fence. The relief of the slope of the land, obtained by drawing the natural elevation lines of the slope, has permitted to complete the essential morphological exercise. Under the pencil of the designer appeared the final signature of an angel wing (the right one, if you can imagine the spiritual body of the angel downstream of the rose garden). It is the wing of a baby-angel (and not an archangel or cherub's wing) for its round shape.

The confirmation of the choice of the Angel wing as a fringe bearing-wall and the consequent inclusion of the garden gives the designer the possibility to operate the distribution choices:

1. the perimeter of the wing is the roses' container;
2. the perimeter is enclosed by continuous railings providing on the side of the valley two main entrances at the top and bottom of the circuit. This latter is the main access gate for the visitor and it marks the starting point of the tour (and climb) in the garden. From here the prospect roams, allowing, from the "lowest" point of view, the unitary vision of the "theatre of the rose memory" looking "in excelsis" (toward the almighty);
3. the circuit of the wing is provided with nine fountains to be linked by the flow of water ducts marking and carving the entire architectural work;
4. between the levels of the higher and the lower fountains, exploiting the natural curves of the land, 7 ledges (8 trampling floors or terraces) can be identified and as many balustrades to the north-east and north-west can be admired; and,
5. in the circuit, in the south-east and east area of the wing, three basic points of view are also conceived. Those are linked by footpaths which are wider than the normal garden avenues. The intersections with the retaining walls and the water channels highlight 130 micro sectors for the vegetation system, covered with rose bushes.

Vacunae Rosae's fence is equipped with a physical and a virtual belt. The physical one consists of a light grating having a classical style. The grating, interrupted by the two driveways and by a pedestrian gate, is due to disappear under the assault of the climbing roses

The fence has an essential complement in the virtual belt. As an "external" function of the garden, it is expected you can stroll through the half mile equipped walk circuit around the rose garden. At a distance of 2.5m from the iron barrier, were planted 60 almond trees, each of them "attacked" by its own climbing rose planted at its foot. The almond trees are followed by a large mixed hedge consisting of a replicated sequence of the shrubby triad composed of a tamarisk, a rambler or climbing rose grown in a "balcony system" (pegging down the branches) and a pomegranate tree. This circuit extends the virtual spirit of the garden, and it naturally sweetens "the duel between the internal and the external area" of any garden, also mentioned by Isabelle Auricoste.



### Views of *Vacunae Rosae*

Clockwise from top left: the garden from the hill; the rock garden; the fountain dedicated to Dyonisos; the place and environment of *Vacunae Rosae* garden In Roccantica; the higher layers of the roses.

## The ascent and memory

Vacuna's garden is designed as an up to grade journey. It is, therefore, an allegorical land in which, while climbing we should receive more wisdom and seize suavity and sweetness, find a meditation place and soothe the emotional stress that the visitor brings with her/him from the outside world.

The uphill road on the main 7 steps leading from Viator's fountain to Virgo's fountain illustrate a path of light that passes, as in all ancient and modern soul therapy's philosophies, through purification moments. The roses will allow the greatest diversity of views, and will generate the "crescendo" of feelings, through their combinations and placements. In Vacuna's garden the rose can chant Robert Irwin's motto: "Ever present. Never twice the same. Ever changing. Never less than whole". The rose can respond to the logic of continuous surprise required to any gardener by Boyceau.

The integration of stones and plants stems above all from the quality of the material used to build the circuits of the retaining walls. It is about local stones, most of which coming from the roadwork of the internal ways located in the woods relevant to the La Tacita property (almost 80 hectares).

At the entrance to the rose garden, the visitor meets among the roses some important presences. To the left, you will find the statue-stone of Prometheus, the fire hunter. The giant *ch'eng* is directed towards the first stage of contemplation, the Viator fountain. The stop at Viator allows to admire long waters (upper basin) and short waters (lower basin).

After Viator you can experience three spiritual immersions starting from the desert, with a visit to the Far East dry garden, karesansui. This presence is due to an inner path, proposed to the visitor who wishes to understand the initiation values that a garden – and above all a rose garden – brings.

The stages of the garden route have at least nine dimensions intersecting as shown in Figure 1.

The roses' wayfarer begins his reflection in the stone garden, designed according to the principal dictates of the Zen philosophy and based on the philosophical principles shared with the Chinese gardeners of the classical period. The design of the garden meets the architectural principles spread in China during the Song period (960 - 1200 AD) and in the corresponding Heian period in Japan (784 - 1185 AD).

Karesansui or sekitei is the garden-non-garden. The vision of the stony landscape is the abstraction, if not the apparent negation of the presence of the rose-flower. The inclusion of a small desert into the irrigated expanse of rose petals is intentional and responds to the first principle of the mystical experience leading to the understanding of the sublime values through the personal and direct perception of the aridity.

Observing the dry garden from a trench – a unique feature of this garden – allows the experience of "looking at the sea of stones from the womb of the earth".

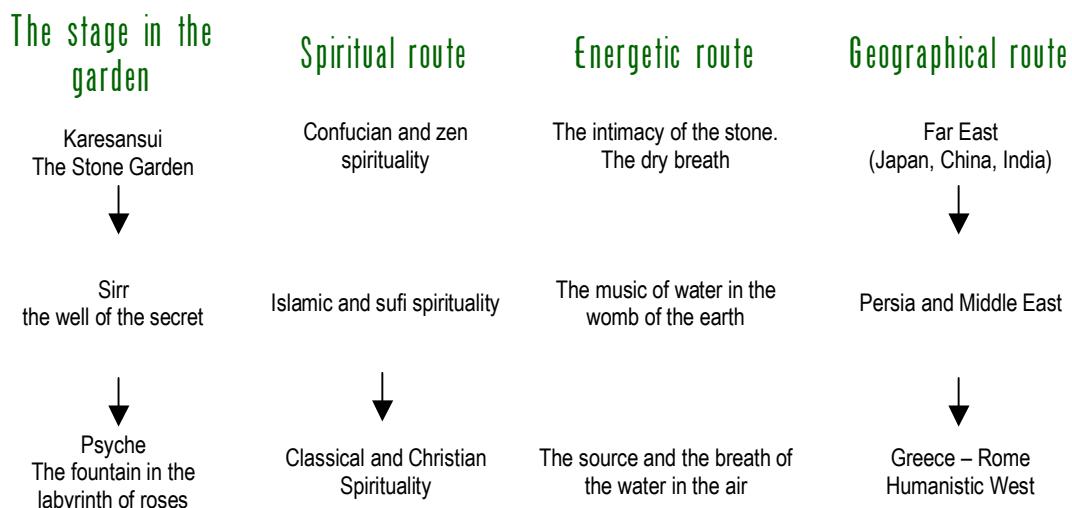
The liberating exit from the observation site brings back the world-of-everyday and it is an opportunity to perceive the "deep breathing" which laps the rose garden and the sacred wood coming from the valley of the Tiber and from the magical coasts of Soratte.

The Viator fountain is home to a spiritual injunction. Among the roses a pilgrimage, the *hajj*, should be done which turns even the most lay visitor from a simple traveller, a *moussafir*, into a *mouhrim*, an expert in the unique need represented by human life.

With this spirit, after the stop at the sandy and stony garden you can proceed against the water flow, from Viator to the Sirr fountain-well.

*Sirr* is an Arabic word meaning "secret." This word is loved by the Sufi mystics, who used to hide their love wherever the truth was putting its roots, despising the surface and looking for *sirr-al-asrar*, the secret of secrets, the biggest secret that the reason is powerless to reveal.

Figure 1.



The well has an octagonal shape. The number eight, according to the Islamic tradition, represents the Four Elements (Fire, Air, Earth and Water) in their relations and their Derivatives (minerals, plants, animals), Humanity being the final element of the universal Eight. The well is keeping the secret, and its symbolism is used to describe the “bottom of the soul”.

Following Sirr, the presence of a labyrinth in the middle of Vacuna's garden expresses a symbolic value and another value associated with the body of water it contains. All cultures of the world recognize the symbolism of the labyrinth as a likely place of perdition and possible salvation. The labyrinth has a defensive function. It tends to delay as much as possible the arrival of the researcher to the possession of the treasure. It is the landing point which defends from the foreigners and that consequently results an award, a consecration and lighting for the skilled ones. Once you arrive in the middle of the magical geography, you have access to the wisdom and you are “consecrated” to the secret.

In Vacuna's garden, the forced path in the labyrinth provides the enjoyment of the walls of roses and, at the same time, it allows the access to Psyche, the body of water. Wisdom, Soul and Mind are in the very middle of the garden.

Psyche's pond corresponds to the point of revelation of the central vital energy of the garden. Entering the intimate circle of Psyche, you can feel what Luis Barragan, the great garden architect and master of colours, felt in the Patio of the myrtles in the Alhambra: “I understood that it contained what a perfect garden, no matter what size it is, must contain: nothing less than the entire universe”.

## The water in the garden

Water has a highly significant role in the design of the garden conceived as a place of inner search. The visitor starts from the bottom where the water is collected and is called, in progression, towards the top where the source begins, with the ability to tap new sources of wisdom.

The highest source is Virgo, a fountain with a half moon structure, located at the end of the rise, bringing with itself the image of feeder of the entire water system. The water is sprinkled by an almond shaped necklace of water roses.

Virgo directly feeds on its left Pantera, the fountain which took this name after the sacred animal custody of Dionysus (“who lies in the shadow of his roses”, according to the verse written by Ezra Pound), in a high watching place of the garden. Pantera has a triangular front-view reflecting in a triangular container. Its shape is that of the intimate womb of woman, what the Chinese people call the “triangle of cinnabar” and known by Biblical tradition as *yod*. The tender sublimity of the feminine womb is also the strength of the sacred animal, which is always waiting in ambush.

At the opposite side of Pantera the two symmetric arms of Libra stand, the symbol of balance and justice, which looks from the east to the west, giving advice to the pilgrim-visitor. The water goes down thunderous from the metal tiles on the columns and is softened by a line of steam water rosettes sprinkling from an horizontal pipe. The waters run towards Psyche and Sirr.

Distant from the other fountains is Hirundo, located in the most remote northern area of the Angel wing, which is a high observation point on the threshold of the visitors entry. The swallow-fountain sends its waters into Viator to cheer its meditation and in Vacuna to proclaim the eternal spring.

Downstream of the roses expanse, to the west and with the view to the east, the two fountains of the “opposite circle” lie. Evoé is convex. It receives water from and through 5 other water basins. The load of water will be used to let the fountain produce music. Evoé is the song of *thyasos*, the Bacchus procession praising the inebriation of the god of wine. The waters, descending from the six borders of the fountain, will be transformed by a system of sensors in random electronic music in the style of the brilliant American composer John Cage.

The colours of Evoé are in the rainbow shades of red, while Vacuna, the fountain-womb of the goddess protector of the garden, took its colours from the gamut of tones of the ground (brown green) and light (yellow and vanilla). The water falling from the borders suggests the serenity and tranquillity of an amniotic sweetness. This is the fountain of sleep and dreams.

## The rose, queen and maid

The rose, in the past defined as the most delicate symbol of the proximity of the Divine, is the undisputed sovereign of Vacuna's garden. The garden is a scripture of roses. Like all flower gardens it finds in Adonis, the one who writes with the flowers, the protagonist of life, death and resurrection.

This flower has expressed its leadership from the most remote antiquity. It adorned the rites of the gods' birth, it became a carpet during the feasts, it was the crown for the last days of the human beings, and it accompanied to eternity the buried bodies. Its petal is moist and meaty, and with its ever-changing colour it gave the brand of the dream in the imagination of the human beings. Francesco Pona, the seventeenth century's botanist and florist consultant of the Giusti's garden in Verona calls it “the light of other plants, the ornament of the earth, the eye of flowers, the gem of the meadows, the fire of love, the reconciler of Venus, the pump of the Dawn, the pleasure of the gods”.

It is quite natural that in the ancient tradition the rose symbolizes Venus, born in the heart of the white rose as sea foam and destined to become a red rose only when the Goddess hurts herself while trying to save her beloved Adonis. Some ancient commentators argue that it was St. Bernard who attributed the rose to Venus

in order to permit the “absorption” of the goddess in the image of the Virgin Mary, of whom the rose is a timeless archetype.

The Islamic tradition is no less explicit and passionate: “The sky is failing to contain the figure of the rose. The rose is like a herald in the garden of the soul”, says the mystic Rumi in the late thirteenth century. And here he reveals the secret of the true lover of the rose. It is at the heart of the spirit of the human being and gardener. In the words of Samuel Reynolds Hole, a Victorian cantor of the religious meanings of the rose, you cannot understand the roses if they do not live in you. “He who would have beautiful Roses in his garden – he says – must have beautiful Roses in his heart”.

The story of the rose has been defined as “the longest love affair in cultural history”. Every rose lover, just like any passionate human being, has different reasons to justify seduction and possession. Some people like to dwell on the single flower to admire its power and evolution. There are those who contemplate the full plant, the rosary, emphasizing its force, comprehensiveness and richness of flowering. Finally, you can find the ones who are abducted by the view of the extensions of buds, in the single sectors or in the whole garden. Every perspective is legitimate and can vary for the same observer, even during short visits. Gertrude Jekyll, for example, in the garden of roses was always used to see a great “containment” of the brightness of the presentation. Her concentration was on the individual plant, on the single flower. “The rose garden can never be called gorgeous. The term is entirely inappropriate. Even in high season of flowering, what is perceived more clearly is the beauty of the Rose. The gorgeousness is for other plants. Here we do not want to distract our attention from the beauty and total delight of the Rose”.

The design of the roses' disposition in Vacuna's garden meets two essential criteria: an intense texture and the variety of expositive solutions.

The *intense texture* is equivalent to the choice of a dense planting of rose bushes, which must appear at the end, in all areas, like a diversified but continuous expanse of roses. The inspiration is the one of the Persians *firdus*, carpets that were loved by the Moghuls

In a rose garden we must educate roses. The reader-visitor of *Vacunae Rosae* perhaps may remain astonished when facing this essential principle formulated by the gardener. The rose, which has been until now praised and exalted, is it not free to grow and expand in complete freedom? The answer is partially negative. If the rose has to be seen and enjoyed, the gardener has to make decisions that determine the planting in the right place, in a proper relationship with other roses and other plants nearby, of greater or lesser size and density. Planting a rosary means deciding on its future. You must take into account the fact that only a few botanical roses may be considered “natural products”. All the others (the vast majority) are human products, hybridised and manipulated from antiquity to the present day. Therefore, the rose is the daughter of human intelligence. And with this intelligence it must

be cultivated. You must know the potential height and largeness it will have in maturity and determine if the space that a spontaneous vegetation requires is all usable. The logic of the designer of *Vacunae Rosae* is that many plants (shrubs, climbers and ramblers) must live on a wide ground, but it has to be shared with all the surrounding beauties. The rosaries of the garden will never be left to their pure and simple “vegetability”. They should be kept within an area of maximum expansion which is “compatible” with the space needed by other plants and especially the other contiguous rosaries.

### A drawing made of roses

Vacuna's gardener, in fact, gave rise to a wide variety of exhibitory solutions. Those are not only including the planting of shrubs in the ground, but also the exaltation of single or group rosaries on the pillars, pergolas, galleries. Reynolds Hole, rejecting all forms of geometry imposed on the garden dictated in *A Book about Roses* written in 1869: “In a rose garden no formalism, no flatness, no monotonous repetition should prevail. There must be beds made of roses, strains of roses, pergolas of roses, hedges of roses, selvedges of roses, pillars of roses, arches of roses, fountains of roses, baskets of roses, views and trails of roses”.

In Vacuna's garden there is no combination of ground covers used as platoons or brigades of roses, without their own individuality. Every rose participates in the general texture of the garden in its own name and risking the confrontation with the contiguous plants, which often have some radically different botanic and morphological features.

In many formal gardens, the most used posture is that of a rose bush, well isolated from the others in order to perform an individual surprise, which should have the same characteristics visible in the photos of the “colour printed catalogue”. There are no such roses in Vacuna's garden. The beauty of each plant comes up to the beauty of the adjacent one and every rose grows in a natural rhythm, which is not “pumped” or “doped” by unnatural and pushed fertilizations.

In Vacuna's garden there will be half mile of roses climbing on the railings of the fence and breathing in and out of the perimeter of the rose garden.

In Vacuna's garden there is a posture that the visitor of the rose gardens can rarely see, it is the festoon of roses which is obviously celebrating the natural shape of the rose, that is, the horizontal rambler called by the French *liane rose* because of its almost wild strength in lengthening. Its horizontal position is pervasive. Over eight hundred meters of the wall (the seven ledges of the garden) are covered with ramblers mixed with climbing roses which are “forced” to grow horizontally.

A series of large and medium size supports is added to this main scenario, among which, the gallery decorated with sacred shrubby plants like the myrtle and the

privet, next to the main rose plants which are accompanied by other climbing plants.

In Vacuna's garden, the rose is dominant, however, it is and will be willingly associated with the perennial plants that more than others have taken on a sacred significance in the development of humanity. The presence of these plants is symbolic. In most cases this is a single specimen that recalls the force of its meaning while dialoguing with the carpets of roses.

On the entrance, nearby Vacuna's fountain is located the vine (*Vitis vinifera*), "mother of the bunch" of grapes. Next to karesansui is the Japanese apricot. Further on, you can admire the Starry magnolia. Of course, there are Laurel and Olive trees, two types of Mulberry tree, the white and the black one, the palm and the Judea's tree.

In the planning logic of Vacuna's garden there is ample space for the association of the rose to other annual or perennial plants. The debate on the eight-twentieth century on the associations of the Queen plant to other splendid characters is still very actual today. The architect of *Vacunae Rosae* is in agreement with Tony Lord that the best results seem to have been obtained by the lovers of old or historical roses who, in their gardens, have combined green plants and coloured globes of Gallicas, Tea roses and perennial hybrids with lavender, diantus, heuchera, sedum or violas. The carnations or the campanulas or calendulas are intelligent homophytic of the rose. But, virtually, all the annual or perennial plants are associable, to create a border or a mixture, as needed to cover the ground or for colour supporting. This will be an important feature in the *Vacunae Rosae*'s garden evolution.

## The Way of the Rose

Even the largest collection – like the German Rosarium of Sängerhausen or the Italian Museum of Roses in Cavriglia – cannot fully tell the story of a flower whose beauty, in the greatest variety of its forms, sums up in the meaning of one single flower. The thousands of roses in Vacuna's garden also represent a huge collection, which is unparalleled in Italy if you consider them as the constituents of a formal garden. The set of over 7,000 plants containing hundreds of thousands of flowers, each of which, as noted by the philosopher Leibniz in the '700, does not have a petal like another, they form a single speech on roses and they are one single flower.

Vacuna's garden tries to suggest some lines of inquiry about the meaning of the rose, giving some preferential pathways, through its 133 sectors, each of which provides a significant act of the Rose Theatre.

The sectors are divided into different main quadrants: the natural families of roses, the rose in history, the great rose growers and lovers, the geographies, emotions, places, colours, names, personalities. The quadrants are not watertight containers, they are contiguity spaces with some branches here and there in

the garden. The visitor, with appropriate maps and directions, is invited to an intelligent exploration.

The first quadrant – consisting of 14 sectors - shows the most important families in which the rose-plant is normally classified and divided by the botanists in the books of history and vegetable culture and by guides and encyclopaedias. The families are proposed starting with wild or botanical roses followed by the sectors of roses Centifolia, Damask, Alba, Gallica, Portland, Chinese, Bourbon, Rugosa, Musk and Moss, plus Tea and Perennial Hybrids.

The second path offered to visitors (comprising 11 sectors) is the one of the historical and chronological territory of the rose from its known origins to the twentieth century. Here you can see the roses of Crusaders and pre-napoleonic, meeting then the myth of the Jardin de la Malmaison, followed by the new plants obtained during the golden age till the Belle Époque.

The twentieth century is divided on the periods going around the two unfortunate World Wars and it more extensively focuses on the post-war decades, beginning with the New Age and the Fabulous Sixties.

The task of the history route is intentionally didactic. The visitor, the young and the old one, can see which roses were created, arguing to which important events - discoveries, crises, leaderships, trends – were developing in parallel.

The area of rose history flows into the quadrant of recent developments of hybridization where the Italian, German, Scandinavian, East-European, Anglo-Saxon and French masters (and great families of rosarians) are singly or in group presented. Vacuna's garden is obviously an evolutionary setting. Every future season other rose creations which were not available or have not been considered will be acquired and shown over time.

Furthermore some sectors are celebrating the association of the rose with the *topoi* – the places and sites - which declare their love for flowers and roses. Many cities, castles, regions are entitled to a specific rose. The names of the flower distinguish valleys and rivers, mountains and islands, streets and villas.

In the emotional area – some 20 sectors – you will find the roses that intentionally recall, with their name as well as with their visual and organoleptic features, the physical and psychological contact between man, woman especially and flower. There is a space dedicated to the soul's and mind's moods, to love and tenderness, to mystery, to glamour, to seduction.

Show, fame and reputation of the artists (more or less aristocratic: fashion designers, actors, opera singers, athletes or film directors, in a word *celebrities*) who have entrusted their name to a rose, for their future memory, are protagonist. There are sectors dedicated to painters, as well as to scientists.

Other sectors represent places of identification and memory. Men and women can trace their proper name – from Ann to Zoe – and the names of the people who

have established, for different reasons, a nominal relationship with the rose, as if they wanted to require the title: queens, kings, noble companions, megalomaniac people and rose lovers, that we would call *rose patrons*. Having a rose in your own name is a crown of victory or celebration.

Finally, the colours, to which some 25 sectors are entitled. The colour combination tends to become dizziness, as it is interpreted by a thousand varieties of roses, of which the visitor is asked to recognize shape and structure, beyond their chromatism.

In Vacuna's garden, while deciphering the colours, you should remember that it can have wonderful performances, almost reverse, at the dawn or at the sunset. The roses invite to be admired according to the different sun rays' incidences, being convinced to provide an image of themselves which is changing depending on the hour of day.

## The garden is the visitor

Many visitors will come to Vacuna's garden to discover and enjoy its architecture and landscape.

But there is a reason to bet that the call for the majority of them will be the rose: "the Queen that cannot stand any rival, even less on its throne", as written by Samuel Reynolds Hole a century and a half ago.

We should understand whether the visitor will enter the garden from the right door. Thomas Stearns Eliot advised us that there may be "a door we have never opened on the rose garden". In order to find the door, and the right one, we must afford to live the garden as a poem, by accepting the strong and varied scenery it offers, finding the time span to have a passionate, burning affair with it. *Flame is roses*, confirms Stearns Eliot again.

To do this we must always find the right balance between the meaning of the rose garden and the public needs that can involve it. There is nothing against the flow of tourists and or the occasional visitors. But, as mentioned by Chen Congzhou while talking about the Chinese gardens "sightseeing requires the contribution of human feeling, because only then you will be able to enjoy the pleasure. The love for water and plants, the knowledge of sources and rocks and the depth of the aesthetic feeling that their view can raise, largely depend on the degree of culture".

The garden and the roses should also not depend on the trendy taste of the rose industries. Many contemporary rose lovers have already warned about the excessive emphasis on the "push for novelties" in the field of hybridization and rose trade, as this latter is not always meeting the criteria of natural beauty and cultural quality that we must expect.

Vacuna's designer-gardener accordingly - even among the current varieties - relies on the classic roses to populate the garden, without pursuing a fragile topicality of forced hybridizations and pretentious advertising.

Let us conclude by observing that in order to understand the meaning and value of the rose garden, the visitor is confronted with one of the most important resources in its life: the space of time, in which all the senses are to be excited. In the garden, the petals of the rose are open for her/him as a virtual watch dial. As a sign of spiritual life, the rose must be watched intensively. The time of the visitor in Vacuna's garden is placed in her/his feet and mind.

Just walking in the rose garden, if you are looking for aesthetic sensations and continuous surprises, placing one foot after another, is an event of sublime touch. If your hand stretches out to leaf through the rose, if you learn how to respectfully caressing the flower, a different time element - the sweetness of the gesture without hurry - will be incorporated in the experience of the visit. This way, a traumatic encounter will be also possible, because roses "*rubent et pungent ut etiam libido*" Fulgenzio says, but the pain and perhaps the blood of the prick recall the proper flow of life.

The aesthetic desire is incited by the view of the colouring power of flowers. But smelling their scent provokes the stimuli that galvanize the intimate relationship with the flower.

Thus, the visitor will learn to follow the scans of the senses that are struck step to step. He will probably hear the vital voices and noises of the rose garden. Flowers usually listen to the wind and music and incorporate them.

The garden is the place of nymphs and gods, as we said, from the very beginning of these pages. Their voice must be heard. Vacuna's garden is like that. Its roses are for the visitor and can speak to him. It is appropriate for the visitor, as happened with the designer-gardener, to agree to live the dream dimension. *Ubi humana, omnia non nisi somnium esse docet*, all human things are nothing but a dream, we learn by Poliphilo's garden of the Renaissance Hypnerotomachia. It is always a short dream, underlines the young and sad Francesco Petrarca.

The vortical storytelling of the rose, as someone called it, is the source of the dream. The visitor understands and shares the epitaph to put it on his/her experience, which will fix the memory by a recurrent surfacing of beauty and spirituality. The conclusive words to bring out from Vacunae Rosae's garden have been written by T.E. Brown and have been cited into the charming book by Peter King: "A garden is a lovesome thing, God wot".

# The Canadian Hybridiser, Dr Felicitas Svejda

By Dr Patrick White, Canada

## The Canadian Hybridiser Dr. Felicitas Svejda

- Her life work
- Her achievements
- Her legacy

by Dr Patrick White,  
Canada



## Dr Felicitas Svejda

- Austrian by birth
- Canadian by choice
- Dr of Agriculture, Vienna
- Plant breeding station, Svalof, Sweden
- Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Canada



Her life work  
the years 1961-1987  
Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa



The challenge for Dr Svejda  
1961: Asked by Agriculture Canada to  
produce roses that would be  
*winter-hardy* and *remontant*



8 zones

was this assignment feasible ?

*winter survival* = cessation of growth



*remontant* = continuing growth



*"I knew nothing of roses."*

Ipsa dixit (Dr Svejda)





Her Achievements with Roses

in the non-rose category

breeder of 5 Weigela cultivars:

Minuet, Samba, Rhumba, Polka, Tango



Sub-Zero Roses of *shrub type*  
bred by Dr Svejda

- Alexander Mackenzie 1985
- Champlain 1982
- Charles Albanel 1982
- David Thompson 1979
- Henry Hudson 1976
- J P Connell 1986
- Jens Munk 1974
- John Franklin 1979
- Martin Frobisher 1968

Sub-Zero *climbers*  
bred by Dr Svejda

- William Baffin 1983
- Henry Kelsey 1984
- John Davis 1986



Seedlings from Dr Svejda's programme \*

- Captain Samuel Holland 1990
- De Montarville 1997
- Frontenac 1992
- George Vancouver 1994
- Lambert Closse 1995
- Louis Jolliet 1990
- Marie Victorin 1998
- Nicolas 1996
- Quadra 1994
- Royal Edward 1995
- Simon Fraser 1992
- William Booth 1999
- Felix Leclerc 2007

\*introduced post-retirement

Another "classification" of  
her most widely known roses

- The 4 *Kordesii* hybrids  
Champlain, John Cabot,  
William Baffin, John Davis
- The 5 *hybrid Rugosas*.  
Martin Frobisher, Jens Munk,  
Henry Hudson, David Thompson,  
Charles Albanel



Another classification  
ARS "Top rated Roses" \*

■ Henry Hudson---	9.0
■ William Baffin----	8.9
■ John Cabot-----	8.8
■ Jens Munk-----	8.7
■ John Davis-----	8.7

\* Out of 10



Henry Hudson  
Hybrid Rugosa  
1976

ARS 9.0



William Baffin  
Kordesii climber  
1983

ARS 8.9



Jens Munk  
Hybrid Rugosa  
1974

ARS 8.8



John Cabot  
Kordesii  
1978

ARS 8.8



*Almost lost in a clearing out of test ground bushes*

John Davis  
Kordesii "climber"  
1986



~

## Dr Svejda's methodology

- observe old rose plantings at the Experimental Farm in Ottawa



- *open* pollination of the old Ottawa plantation ---> seedlings



- *3 year assessment* of certain seedlings ---> repeat assessment for *another 3 years*

- seedlings (4-5 leaves) planted outdoors, given irrigation, but *NO* protection

### Measurements taken:

- winterkill (wood) assessed **X 1**
- dead/diseased wood: scale of 1-7
- flowering : scale of 1-6 assessed **weekly** June-Sept

*not* a great result---

only 2 out of 2,000 seedlings flowered for 12-14 weeks

## The Ottawa plantation roses that she observed



she studied the various hardy bushes that got almost no care:  
*Schneezwerg*,  
Fru Dagmar Hastrup,  
Therese Bugnet, Tetonkaha,  
Belle Poitevine, Wasagaming,  
*R. gallica*



## Schneezwerg (Snow Dwarf)

Lambert (Germany) 1912  
?R. rugosa X polyantha

### Ideal:

- Semi-double white with yellow stamens
- fragrant
- remontant
- red hips
- no blackspot
- very resistant to mildew
- *fertile, accepting pollen from a variety of roses*



## A seedling from *open* pollination of Schneezwerg



This "first" seedling

Martin Frobisher  
1968



Next step for this seedling

- Enlisted research stations throughout Canada and U.S.
- 3 plants each sent to the above

Also tested for:

- Drought resistant (N.Z.)
- Heat resistance (Calif.)

Steps taken to introduce the attribute "everblooming"

- 1961 --- rooted cuttings *R. chinensis* from Government House, Victoria, B.C.



---and to bring in the "toughness"

*R. rugosa-*



both *R. rugosa* and *R. chinensis* ---

the same chromosome number (diploid---14)

cf present garden roses 28 (tetraploid)

*Simplification---*  
*roses are so incredibly varied---due to variable chromosome sets*  
*diploid, triploid, tetraploid---all coming about by crosses*

-- Dr Svejda moved on to *tetraploid hybrids*

- using *R. kordesii* and hybrids from Robert Simonet (Edmonton, Canada)



**Results:**  
the first rose to meet Dr. Svejda's objective

Champlain: 1982

- winter hardy, long flowering, and heavy blooming
- petals do not fade



a rose of which Dr Svejda  
is very proud

Frontenac:

- hardness+++
- continuous, free blooming
- high disease resistance
- quality of flowers
- habitus of bush
- flower clusters
- autumn hips

recommended by Dr Svejda as  
parent plant for breeding  
programmes



Some of the *lessons*  
she "learned" en route...

"few *hybrids* compare well with  
the parent *species*"

----Dr Svejda



*remontance* and *winter hardiness*  
are possible in the same rose  
(a lesson from Schneezwerg)

*remontance* vs "everblooming"  
(the China roses)



*to break seed dormancy*

8 weeks @ 20 degrees Celsius

12 weeks @ 4 degrees Celsius

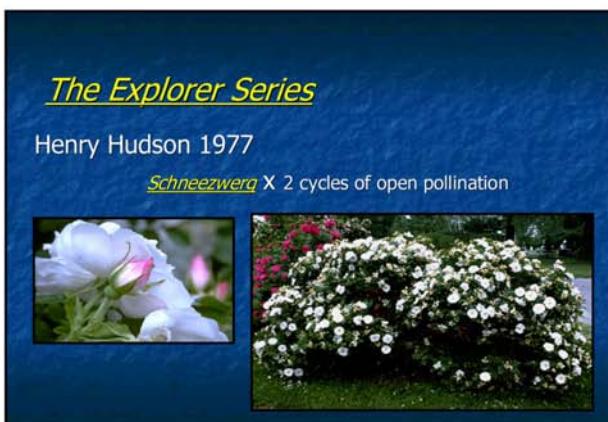
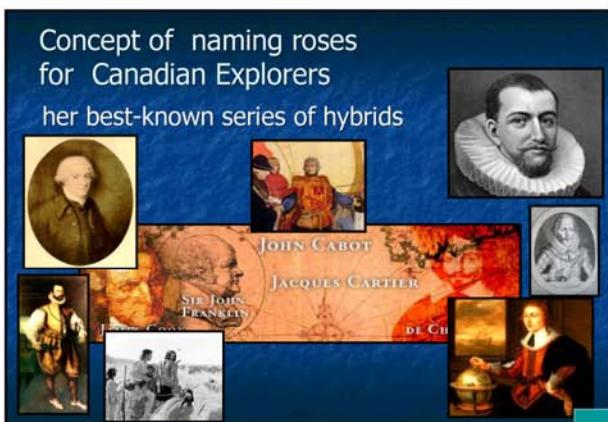
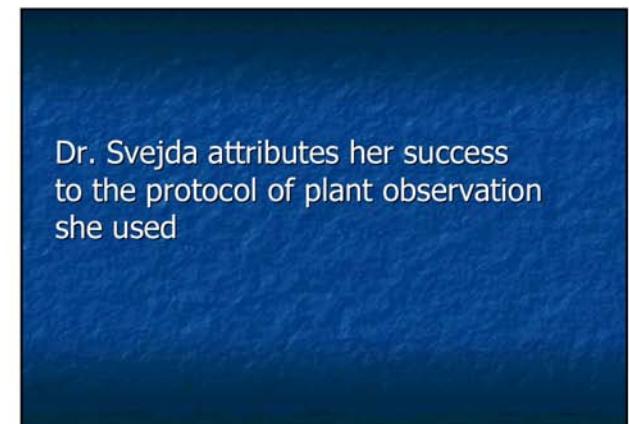
*a flowering period* of 7/52 or longer  
indicates *recurrent bloom* in both  
diploid / tetraploid hybrids



*en route* "Rugosa ottawa"

A seedling of R. rugosa from Abashuri, Japan  
*highly resistant to mites, aphids*

? lost to breeding/commerce



### The Explorer Series

Charles Albanel 1982

open pollination of

Souvenir de Philemon Cochet seedling X unknown seedling



### 2009 ARS "Top rated Shrub Roses"

■ Henry Hudson	(3 <sup>rd</sup> )		9.0
■ William Baffin	(10 <sup>th</sup> )		8.9
■ John Cabot	(13 <sup>th</sup> )		8.8
■ Jens Munk	(21 <sup>st</sup> )		8.7
■ John Davis	(22 <sup>nd</sup> )		8.7

\* Out of 10



### Dr Svejda's Achievements

Roses that are:

- hardy
- very resistant to blackspot/powdery mildew
- 2 flushes + intermittent flowering
- hips, especially Jens Munk, Henry Hudson
- fragrant
- good autumn leaf colour
- landscape value, especially *in colder zones*

### Internationally

Roses tested (and grown)  
northern Sweden (64 degrees N),  
Finland (60 degrees N),



### Explorer Roses growing in Finland, 2008



and in The Russian Far East



## Khabarovsk

The Russian Far East sister city of Victoria, B.C.



Climatic Zone 2



## Dr Svejda's Challenge



- To establish trial grounds in different zones of Canada
- To place the trials in established gardens thus reducing costs
- To encourage commercial / private rose breeders to take part in the trials
- The role of Canadian rose societies in organising the above

## Honours

- Doctor of Sciences honoris causa  
York University, Toronto 2000
- Award of Merit  
Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation 1999
- Honorary Patron Canadian Rose Society

## Rose Honours

- John Cabot  
Royal National Rose Society 1985  
Silver medal  
City of Portland Gold Medal 2004

## Explorer Rose Garden Ottawa established in 2005



Dr Svejda's legacy---  
her roses are currently in retail



# Appendix 1: New Zealand Rose Gardens

## Whangarei City Rose Garden

Cafler Park, Water Street, Whangarei.

In the central city area. Opened in 1939 and contains 700 plants.

## Takapuna Rose Garden

Anzac Street, Takapuna, Auckland.

Garden established in 1956 and has 630 plants.

## Belmont Rose Garden

Cnr Lake Road & School Road, Belmont, Takapuna, Auckland

Garden established in 1957 and has 600 plants.

## Parnell Rose Garden

Dove Meyer-Robinson Park, Gladstone Road, Parnell, Auckland

Opened in 1934, this garden of 6 Ha has some 4,500 roses in 400 different varieties, including a good selection of recently-introduced Hybrid Teas and floribundas and a small selection of old roses.

## Nancy Steen Rose Garden

Dove Meyer-Robinson Park, Gladstone Road, Parnell, Auckland

The Nancy Steen Garden was established along side the Parnell Rose Gardens for old and species roses. It was named after Nancy Steen, an enthusiast Heritage Rosarian who was involved in growing, seeking out, identifying and rescuing odd roses.

## Auckland Botanic Gardens

Hill Road, Manurewa, Auckland

This garden was redeveloped in 2001 and transformed from a monoculture of predominately modern varieties to a varied garden displaying many types of roses. The original rose garden was planted in 1981, and then shifted to another site in 1988 to be a display/ trial garden as part of the rose festival for "Auckland Rose of the Year". The garden comprises five different themes: roses and New Zealand Natives, historical garden, reflective garden, pergola garden and a trial garden selecting varieties for Auckland conditions.

## Rogers Rose Garden

Hamilton Gardens, Cobham Drive, Hamilton

The Rogers Rose Garden occupies an attractive 1.5 hectare site on the east bank of the Waikato River. It is part of the 58 hectare Hamilton Gardens. The garden containing 3500 roses was established in 1969 for the World Rose Convention, held in New Zealand in 1971. The garden is the location for the annual Pacific Rose Bowl festival and the RINZ rose of the year trial. This garden was awarded the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) Garden Plaque of Merit award in 2006.

## Hamilton Lake Rose Gardens

Pembroke Street, Hamilton

Established in 1955 in an attractive setting beside Hamilton Lake. It contains 1800 roses of older varieties released between 1919 to 1960,

## Te Awamutu Rose Garden

Arawata Street, Te Awamutu

Garden established in 1969 as a Jaycee project in conjunction with numerous community groups. It was opened in 1971 and featured as part of the inaugural World Rose Convention in 1971. Contains more than 2500 plants of over 50 varieties.

## Tauranga City Rose Garden

Robbins Park, Cliff Road, Tauranga

Rose garden is located in the Botanic Gardens, established in 1963, contains 600 roses, mainly modern types.

## Te Puke Rose Garden

Jocelyn Street, Te Puke

Garden replanted 1998 for the 1998 National Rose Show and Convention, has 400 plants of modern varieties.

## Whakatane Botanical Garden

McGarvey Road, Whakatane

The rose garden is part of the Whakatane Botanical garden and is located on the Whakatane River bank, established in 1964 and contains over 600 rose plants including 66 standards.

## Murray Linton Rose Garden

Fenton Park, Trigg Avenue, Rotorua

Established in 1970 and contains over 1500 bushes.

## Klamath Falls Rose Gardens

Government Gardens, Hinemaru Street, Rotorua

The Government Gardens were developed in the 1890s to beautify scrub covered ground surrounding a sanatorium hospital and thermal baths. The rose garden was established in 1960 and has 1600 plants.

## Taupo Rose Garden (Joan Williamson Rose Garden)

South Tongairo Domain, Storey Place, Taupo

Established in 1974 and contains 400 plants.

## Glenlogie Rose Garden

Cnr Anzac Parade/Marshall Ave, Wanganui

Garden has a display of over 600 roses.

## Gisborne City Rose Garden (James Parker Memorial Garden)

Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne

Established in 1960 and contains 300 plants.

## Kennedy Park Rose Garden

Kennedy Park

Storkey Street, Napier

Rose garden planted and opened in 1951. Many more roses were planted over the following years. Now contains over 5000 plants comprising over 500 named varieties. Prominent feature is a 90 metre long display of climbing roses.

## Frimley Rose Garden

Frimley Park, Frimley Avenue, Hastings

1.4 ha of rose gardens in 19 ha Frimley Park, an old English style park that includes many beautiful and rare trees. The park was given to the people of Hastings by the Williams family in 1951 and was formerly the grounds of the family homestead. The rose garden was established in 1964 and contains 4000 plants.

## Dugald MacKenzie Rose Garden

Victoria Esplanade, Palmerston North

The rose garden is part of the Victoria Esplanade which was developed in 1897 and covers 19 hectares of native bush, exotic plantings, other gardens and recreational areas adjacent to the Manawatu River. The rose garden, which was opened in 1968, contains over 5000 rose plants in beds set out in a formal design to display over 100 varieties of roses. The garden was awarded the World Federation of Rose Societies Garden Plaque of Merit award in 2003. The garden also contains the plant patent variety collection and trial grounds.

## N.Z. International Trial Grounds

Dugald MacKenzie Rose Garden, Victoria Esplanade, Palmerston North

The National Rose Trial Grounds which opened in 1969, were the first to be established in the Southern Hemisphere. Though under the auspices of the New Zealand Rose Society, the gardens are looked after by the city Parks Department. This is a trial ground for un-named seedling roses and most the international rose breeders support it.

**Queen Elizabeth II Park**

Park Avenue, Masterton

Established in 1925 and contains 390 plants. Original garden has since been replanted with modern roses.

**Memorial Park**

Elizabeth Street, Waikanae

Established in 1992 and contains 600 plants.

**Aotea Lagoon Rose Garden**

Papakowhai Road, Papakowhai, Porirua

Established in 1970 and contains 500 plants of modern varieties.

**Civic and Riddiford Gardens**

Laings Road, Lower Hutt

Extensive gardens contain roses, an aviary, conservatory and orchid house. The rose garden has 500 modern and carpet roses, with fragrant varieties featured.

**Lady Cole Rose Garden**

Mitchell Park, Mitchell Street, Lower Hutt

Redeveloped, new plantings made in 2001, contains 2700 roses including modern, old fashioned, ground covers and climbers.

**Pauatahanui Burial Ground**

St Alban's Anglican Church, Paekakariki Hill Road, Pauatahanui, Porirua

Burial ground containing many Heritage rose varieties. First interment took place in 1860 and many members of pioneer families of the district are buried there. The roses are maintained by local volunteers.

**Lady Norwood Rose Garden**

Botanic Gardens, Glenmore Street, Thorndon, Wellington

The Lady Norwood Rose Garden is part of the Wellington Botanic Garden. The Botanic Garden was established in 1868 and today covers an area of 25 hectares. The present rose garden was opened in 1953 and contains over 3,000 Hybrid Teas and floribundas. The garden has a trial ground where newer varieties are assessed for Wellington's conditions.

**Bolton Street Memorial Park**

Cemetery, Kinross Street, Wellington

Contains the city's original burial grounds (known as Bolton Street Cemetery) and commemorates many early pioneers and historical figures from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The park contains a nationally important collection of Heritage roses some dating back to the colonial era.

**Centennial Rose Garden**

Pollard Park, Parker Street, Blenheim

Garden contains 1500 roses.

**Petherbridge Garden**

Main Highway, Motueka

Garden features a massed display of a wide range of roses in a traditional garden layout.

**Queens Garden**

Bridge Street, Nelson

Park established in 1891 in commemoration of Queen Victoria.

Rose garden established in 1980 and contains 500 plants.

**Samuels Rose Garden**

Broadgreen House, Nayland Road, Stoke, Nelson

Rose garden in the grounds of Broadgreen House. Established in 1968 and contains 3000 plants of over 600 varieties. It includes old and modern roses displayed in a formal garden. At the rear of the house grows the 'Slater's Crimson China' rose. Broadgreen house was a typical gentleman's residence built in 1855. It has been faithfully restored and furnished and is now a museum.

**Tasman Bay Rose Garden**

Tasman Bay Roses, Chamberlain Street, Motueka

This garden originally started out as a private collection of Heritage roses. It contains one of the largest collections of rose varieties in the country. It now holds over 1000 varieties, both old and new and is maintained by the Pratt family of Tasman Bay Roses.

**Christchurch Rose Garden**

Christchurch Botanic Gardens, Rolleston Avenue, Christchurch

The first rose garden was established in 1909; the present garden was redesigned in 1935 and now contains 1300 plants. The garden is a formal design and contains modern, bush, climber, standards and minis. There is a continual replanting programme for newer varieties. Pergola archways were added to each entrance way during 1995. A heritage rose garden has been part of the Botanic Gardens since 1950, this was remodelled in 1999.

**Mona Vale**

Fendalton Road, Christchurch

The Mona Vale homestead was built in 1899 to 1900 and is one of Christchurch's more significant historic homes. It is sited within 5.5 ha of gardens and landscaped lawns gently rolling down to the Avon River. It features roses, irises, rhododendrons, camellias, conifers, maples and a lily pond. The rose garden was established in 1970 and contains over 500 plants. It was redesigned in 1993 just prior to the World Rose Convention in Christchurch in 1994. The garden is maintained by members of the Rose Society.

**Geraldine Domain Rose Garden**

Domain, Cox /Hislop Streets, Geraldine

Garden with a formal layout, seating, picnic tables and shade trees. The rose garden was established in 1998 and contains 150 plants.

**Temuka Domain**

Domain Avenue, Temuka

Garden has a formal layout, established in 1900 and contains 422 plants.

**Timaru Botanic Gardens**

Queen Street, Timaru

The Botanic Gardens has the Anderson Rose Garden containing modern roses and a separate collection of species roses. Over 75 different rose species including rare ones and a number of hybrids are to be found in this garden. Plants are being added to this collection from a contribution from Heritage Roses NZ.

**Trevor Griffiths Rose Gardens**

The Bay Hill, Caroline Bay, Timaru

Garden opened in 2001 and contains 1200 plants. This garden is a tribute to South Canterbury Rosarian and author Trevor Griffiths. The garden has evolved from Trevor Griffith's rose collection and 600 roses from English breeder David Austin.

**Victoria Park**

Queens Street, Waimate

Council Domain garden established in 1930 and contains 250 plants.

**Oamaru Public Gardens**

Severn Street, Oamaru

The 13 ha Public garden which opened in 1876 contains a rose garden, bedding plants, New Zealand natives, mature trees, shrubs, a native fernery and display house for exotic plants. The rose garden was established in 1925 and contains 700 plants.

**Garden of Memories**

Severn Street, Oamaru

Established in 1953 and contains 180 plants of Julischka roses planted in the form of a cross.

**Old Gaol Stables**

Main Street, behind the Library, Oamaru

Garden of old fashioned roses to complement building of local limestone. Established in 1995 and contains 36 plants which are maintained by the local rose society.

**Dunedin Botanic Garden Rose Garden**

King Street, Dunedin

The Botanic Garden was established in 1863 and was New Zealand's first Botanic gardens. The rose garden was redesigned and replanted in 1988/89 with the help of the Otago Rose Society. It contains over 2000 plants and features modern, old fashioned and species roses.

**Dunedin Northern Cemetery**

Lovelock Avenue, Dunedin.

This cemetery was established in 1872 to have 5 acres devoted to gardens around 15 acres of graves. It contains a significant collection heritage roses which are maintained by Heritage Roses Otago (HRO). In 2001 HRO started a conservation and planting project and now there are over 1000 roses growing in the cemetery.

**Anderson Park**

Waenga Drive, Cromwell

Established in 1987 and contains 472 plants.

**Queenstown Rose Garden**

Park Street, Queenstown

Established in 1967 and contains 850 plants.

**Gore Public Gardens**

Fairfield Street, Gore

Gardens feature rose garden, bedding displays, glasshouse, plant collections, formal and informal gardens.

**Henry Edginton Rose Garden**

Queens Park, Gala Street, Invercargill

Queens Park is one of the largest municipal parks (80 ha) in New Zealand. It was originally set aside as a native bush reserve in 1857. It was developed into a public park and gardens in 1911. The rose garden was established in 1917 and contains 2000 plants of modern varieties.

**Jessie Calder Rose Garden**

Queens Park, Gala Street, Invercargill

Heritage Rose garden in Queens Park which contains a comprehensive collection of old fashioned roses. It was opened in 1989 and has 900 plants from 400 different varieties.

**Anderson Park**

8 km north of Invercargill

Park which contains 24 ha flower and rose gardens, lawn, native bush, mature trees and a two-story Georgian-style residence now housing an art gallery.